

AMERICAN DAYLILY SOCIETY REGION 2 SUMMER/FALL 2025

GREAT LAKES

ILLINOIS INDIANA MICHIGAN OHIO WISCONSIN

Daylily

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'Fear the Purple'
(Kraus-Ed., 2013)

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American Hemerocallis Society

Membership Rates

Individual (1 year)	\$30
Individual (3 Years)	\$84
Dual Membership (1 year) *	\$36
Dual Membership (3 years)*	\$99
Life Membership	\$600
Dual Life Membership	\$900
Youth - Individual (1 year)	\$12

Twelve month memberships become effective on the date that they are input into the system.
Make checks payable to the AHS.

Mail to: Mary Gunter
PO Box 65
St. Matthews, SC 29135

* Dual Membership means two persons living in the same household.

Editorial Policy

The American Hemerocallis Society is a nonprofit organization. The *American Hemerocallis Society Region 2 / Great Lakes Newsletter* is published for the benefit of American Hemerocallis Society members residing in Region 2. As such, the editorial focus of the publication centers on:

- The genus *Hemerocallis*.
- AHS and Region 2 events.
- Region 2 members and hybridizers.

Submissions are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar, and content for the three criteria cited above.

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Top to bottom:

'Brookwood Blanchita'
(Sharp-Crocker, 2025)

Ansley and Eveylyn Titus:
2025 Faulkner Youth
Scholaship Winners

'Raggedy Man' (Seifert, 2012)
Photo by Nevaeh Bieri

Out-of-Region
Subscriptions
\$20 per year in USA
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AHS Region 2 and send to
AHS Region 2 Treasurer.

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Full Page..... \$200
Half Page..... \$100
Quarter Page\$50

Make checks payable to
AHS Region 2 and send it with your
request to the Editor.

**Content Deadline for
Summer/Fall Edition:
August 20, 2025**

Region 2 Website: www.adsregion2.org

Important Notice:

The AHS is actively promoting the use of
American Daylily Society in place of
American Hemerocallis Society.

This should add clarity when sharing
information with the general public.

You will see Region 2 follow their lead, using
the names interchangeably going forward.

On The Front Cover: 'Fear the Purple' Photo by Mary Ann Cleary
On The Back Cover: Sutter Farm Photo by Ginny Pearce

Region 2 Director Message

Rhonda Veroeven, Region 2 Director, President American Hemerocallis Society



As the Autumnal breezes begin, so does the school year. For this teacher, it has meant much less time in the garden. I am trying to prep and get things cleaned and ready for the garden's winter sleep, but there just doesn't seem

to be enough time in the day. I do what I can when I can...and look forward to all the new blooms that I have added this year. I am looking ahead to next year's Regional Meeting as my garden will be on tour. I added a new Stout bed which was a huge undertaking this year, so less prep in other areas of the garden have taken place.

President's Tour:

Vice President/President Elect Rich Crider and I had an amazing President's Tour this year. We started at the Region 15 Summer Meeting, then went further South to the Atlanta area for a week, went to Arkansas for a week, went to Louisiana, and ended in Delaware and Virginia for two shows. It was a whirlwind multi-week tour! Huge thank yous to all the club members, Directors, and garden owners who made it a trip filled with memories and connections!

A few days afterward, Rich and I attended the Multi-Club Event that Blue Ridge Daylilies put together. I bring this event up specifically because both Eric Simpson and Robert Selman made huge donations to Hurricane Relief, AND most remarkably to me, they offered a free new introduction to anyone that joined AHS at the event. I believe their total was 12 NEW MEMBERS!!! There are not enough words of thanks for the generosity that these two amazing gentlemen showed to encourage growth to AHS. Encouraging new members and explaining the value of being a member is something we all can do to make our amazing society continue to grow for years! What can YOU think of doing to have someone join in on the fun? There just has to be something like this we can do in our Region!

National Convention:

Directly from Asheville, we flew to Seattle, Washington, for the unbelievable "Once in a Lifetime" national Convention. I will not give anything away, but while it was a smaller convention, those of us lucky enough to attend had an incredible time—and multiple records were broken (I will let the Co-Chairs make those announcements...but they are exciting). The gardens were simply spectacular, the evening events, sales, silent auctions, live auctions, and most of all, the camaraderie was unprecedented. I know I will never forget this amazing convention and look forward to next year in Valdosta, Georgia! Congratulations to Oliver Billingslea for winning the Helen Field Fisher Gold Medal for a lifetime service to the Society on a national level. It was well deserved. Congratulations to Karol Emmerich for winning the Moldovan Mentoring award, established to honor an individual for their life-long mentoring efforts. Congratulations, also, to Scott Elliott for winning the Bertrand Farr Silver Medal for his lifetime achievements in daylily hybridizing.

Congratulations are also in order for the hybridizers who won awards including the Stout Medal, Awards of Merit, and Honorable Mention awards, the Specialty awards, and the Junior Citations in addition to newsletter and photography awards! (I even won my first national award...it was a huge surprise) Look for details in *The Daylily Journal* and on pages 40 to 49 of this newsletter.

Fall Board Meeting:

Your Board of Directors have been tirelessly working behind the scenes to make our amazing vibrant organization grow and flourish. At the National Convention in Seattle, the amount of work and policies completed were astronomical. There were many policies added to the Policy and Procedures manual. The Board accepted a new policy for our social media, an Endowments policy, a new position with policy for an Awards and Honors Auditor, and the addition of an Educational Programs Chair.

A few fun changes to the Photography Awards were made as well. Two new awards were added- a new Seedling category and a new Historic Daylilies category. We are excited for these additions.

We also made a change to our Display Gardens requirements. All remains status quo for becoming a Display Garden, but we have changed the requirement to only needing to renew every three years. Garden owners can choose to cancel their status at any time but only need to renew every three years instead of annually. This is a nice perk for members.

We are excited that all special chair positions are filled and would like to welcome two new Chairs. First, Doug Crider will be our new Display Garden Chair. And for the new position of Educational Programs Chair we would like to welcome Andrew Veroeven. You should already have already heard from both of them via email.

There has been so much behind the scenes work of the technology team. We will be launching our new website in the very near future. This has been a tremendous undertaking. We know that there will be a lot of bumps on the way to full transfer to the new platform, but we are very excited for the new updated website. Our huge benefit will be the database and registrations. More information will come on that when details are ready. We could not be more excited!

Another exciting engagement opportunity we will have is that we will be hosting the first-ever AHS Winter Meeting. This will be a place for interested stakeholders to come together to work to come up with more benefits to membership. Our new Educational Programs Chair will be offering great benefits to our membership, but we are really looking to brainstorm additional new ideas. This will be open to

all AHS members, but it will be limited in size (60-70 attendees only). This limited size will allow for work groups to be productive. This is the first of what we hope will be many opportunities. We will be meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in mid-January. More details will be made available as we have them. We just secured the meeting space and dates and will be sharing those very soon.

Convention Hosts Needed:

Our Conventions chair Caroline Zebroski is currently accepting applications to host the AHS National Conventions in 2028, 2029 and beyond. The convention team is available to help with many aspects of hosting a convention. If interested, please reach out to Caroline at conventions@daylilies.org for more information.

Upcoming National Conventions:

May 20-23, 2026: Valdosta, Georgia

June, 2027: Tidewater, Virginia

100 Giving \$100 Campaign:

Did you get your stunning 100 giving \$100 campaign pin! Each year a new collectible limited edition pin is created and sold exclusively to the first 100 members donating at least \$100 specifically to this fund which benefits the general fund of the Society. To participate, you can contact our Endowments Chair, Joe Goudeau, directly at endowments@daylilies.org or go to the ADS website and click on "Donations" under the "Get Involved" tab. Then select 100 Giving \$100 when asked to select the fund to receive your gift.

It is an absolute honor to be your President!

Yours in daylilies,

Rhonda Veroeven



Region 2 President Message

Monique Warnke, Region 2 President



Hello fellow gardeners,

Another growing season is in the books. Fall is upon us, and before we know it, the next planting season will be here. My sincerest apologies that I was unable to attend the Region 2 gathering this year—I heard it was a wonderful event, and I truly missed being there with all of you.

I am proud of this Region and everything it represents. Just one of the many highlights this year is the increase in our number of garden and exhibition judges. I want to say thank you to the teachers who volunteered their time and expertise to strengthen Region 2's standing within the American Daylily Society. If you weren't able to complete your qualifications as a garden judge and are still interested in doing so, please reach out to Sandra Dunn or Hilary Heffernan. For exhibition judging, please reach out to Laurel Richardson or Nikki Schmidt for guidance on how you can take the next steps. Their contact information is on page 2.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events planned:



Shirley Farmer Meeting:

October 31–November 1, 2025, Dayton, OH

For details, please contact Sandy Holmes at ohiodaylily@yahoo.com



Mid-Winter Meeting:

February 27–March 1, 2026, Indianapolis, IN

Our outstanding lineup of speakers includes Kirsten Hatfield, Michelle Rogers, Steve Franklin, Mike Holmes, Bobbi Johnson, John Kinnebrew, and Rad Drew. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn and connect—you won't want to miss it!



Region 2 Summer Meeting:

July 17-19, 2026, Madison, WI

Hosted by the Wisconsin Daylily Club, this event will feature tours of four beautiful gardens:

Genni & Francis Kleckner (Work-in-progress Garden)

Char Hanson (Hosta Haven)

Rhonda Veroeven (Yoder Ridge)

Monique Warnke (Gemütlichkeit Garden)

We will also enjoy a lunch stop at the UW West Agricultural Research Center, home to the Wisconsin Daylily Society display gardens!

This year's National Convention was truly a special occasion, and Region 2 was exceptionally well represented—especially by the youth of our Region. Their presence brought such energy and promise for the future of our society and I want to extend heartfelt thank you to the parents who encouraged and supported their children in attending this once in a lifetime event. Moments like these plant seeds that will keep our community thriving for generations to come.

Those of us who attended were treated to some of the most breathtaking gardens on display in recent memory. Each stop on the tour was a reminder of the passion, dedication, and artistry that define our daylily family.

I was deeply honored to represent not only Region 8 and the Puget Sound Daylily Club, but also Region 2, whose members stepped up in remarkable ways to make this convention a success. My gratitude goes out to: Jim Cruise, Jacob Braun, Amanda Christensen, Barb and Bob Buikema, Patti and Ron Byerley, Laurel Richardson, Rhonda Veroeven, Lane Revenal and my husband Grant Hetherington from Region 2. I wouldn't have been able to do it without your unwavering support! I would also like to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mike Grossmann, Kathleen Nordstrom, Lisa and Jeff Schmidt, and Kris Henning, from Region 1. Together, their efforts and enthusiasm truly embodied the can-do spirit of the Midwest—a spirit of collaboration, hard work, and friendship that continues to make our society strong.

As we move into autumn, I hope you enjoy the beauty of the season and look forward to the blooms of next year.

As always, keep your shovel in the dirt!

Warmly,
Monique Warnke

Region 2 Cash and Fund Balance Report

Bobbi Johnson, Region 2 Treasurer



ADS Region 2 Fund Balances

General Fund	\$ 61,326.16
Youth Fund	10,253.00
Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship	1,400.00
Total Cash On Hand	\$ 72,979.16

Bank Balance of 09/3/2025

	2024 Actuals
Checking Account	\$ 5,257.62
Money Market Savings Account*	15,069.16
Certificate of Deposit (renews July 18)	52,625.35
Total Cash On Hand	\$ 72,979.16

Public Garden Grant Program Applications Due

Applications Accepted Through November 30, 2025

The Region 2 Public Garden Grant Program recognizes that the display of daylilies in a public garden venue aligns with the overall mission statement of the American Daylily Society to promote awareness of the beauty, versatility, and diversity of the modern daylily. As we enter our third year of this program, the Region 2 Grant Committee encourages clubs who maintain a public display of daylilies to apply for financial support through this program.

Application details can be found on our website: adsregion2.org/public-garden-grant-program/.

Examples of prior grant recipients' needs have included soil amendments, mulch, fertilizer, weed control products, garden signage, plant markers, and new plants.

Updates Wanted From Prior Grant Recipients

If your club has received funding through the Public Garden Grant Program, we would love to get an update from you to include in an article for the next *Great Lakes Daylily*. Please send photos and a brief update of how you have used your funds to greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com. I would love to have your information by November 15, 2025.

Region 2 Youth Update

By Pat Titus, Regional Youth Chair



Fall 2025 Youth News

Six youth participated in the Region 2 Summer meeting. And they stayed pretty busy!! They were GREAT help as plant runners for the live auctions. We could not do it without this amazing group of young people!



One of the topics we spoke with them about was the development of a youth educational program. We know they are busy, but we want to encourage them to continue to grow daylilies. Who knows...there may be our next famous future hybridizer in this bunch of talent!

Samantha Schwandt from Wisconsin says she is interested in this program so that she can meet new people

and learn their perspectives and opinions about daylilies. Isn't that why many of us adults gather at our daylily events as well?

We will kick off these Zoom meetings on Thursday, November 6 at 7pm (Eastern time). Our featured speaker will be Sandra Dunn from *Along the Fence Daylilies* in Dansville, Michigan.

We are still in the process of formulating this program. Our first meeting will include opportunities for the youth attending to participate in the planning of future meetings. Please make the youth in your clubs aware of this new opportunity. We are starting slow, but feel the momentum building into an excellent program! Interested adults and hybridizers are also welcome to join in on the fun.

Since we will be working with youth from ages 7-18, we realize this is a process. It is a commitment of Region 2 to grow and cultivate our youth—just like our daylilies! It is our hope that when they feel ready, some of these youth will eventually become ADS garden judges. Now is the time!

If you are interested in joining this group, please email Pat Titus at pigsnbaskets@hotmail.com.

Youth (and young at heart) making fairy gardens at the Summer Meeting. Thanks, Rhonda!



Region 2 Editor Notes

Saundra Dunn



Have you ever noticed that the various issues of this newsletter have their own rhythm? Every issue includes officer updates and club reports. The Winter/January issue also has Winter Meeting speaker information, Summer Meeting garden descriptions, two or three feature articles on topics of interest, and more photo contest entries that haven't yet been published.

The Winter Meeting then occurs in February or March. So the Spring/May issue contains Winter Meeting photos and reflections, Summer Meeting final information, and a few more photo contest entries. This issue has room for three or four feature articles which could include our ongoing "What's in a Name?" series, our "Hybridizer How-To" series, our "Digging Up Daylily History" series, an ADS display garden highlight, or any daylily-related topic of interest.

This Summer/Fall issue is actually my favorite to put together. There are so many photos! A variety of writers share their reflections about the Summer Meeting. We get a sneak preview of the upcoming Summer Meeting. And there are so many fun announcements to include: Region 2 Photo Contest winners, the Howard Hite Award winner, the Englerth Award winner, the Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship Award winners, and a showcase of our Region 2 members who won awards at the National level. All of this only leaves room for one or two feature articles, but this issue still seems to overflow with information.

This digital edition is the same as the print version except the Honorable Mention photos have been enlarged for greater enjoyment of the images. I have also included a request from our ADS archivist Melodye Campbell that will appear again in the winter edition.

'Brookwood Blanchita'

Two of the feature articles I had hoped to include in this issue did not get finalized in time and will be lovely additions to the Winter issue. And there is a saga, or at least a good story, as to how "The Saga of 'Brookwood Blanchita'" did end up in this issue. About 18 months ago, Gene Crocker contacted me to inquire

about Brookwood plants that we carry at Along The Fence. In the end, we had four that he was looking for, which I sent him. Fast forward to June of this year and I got an unexpected copy of *Hemalina* (the Region 15 newsletter) in the mail from Gene. In it was an article he had written about his quest to get a Brookwood seedling registered. As soon as I read it, I contacted him to request to reprint it in our newsletter. In spite of the bad decisions Leo Sharp made later in life, he was a Region 2 hybridizer who created some very lovely daylilies. I still grow many of them, as do a lot of people I know.

Hybridizers: Two Requests

1. The next topic in our "Hybridizing 'How To' Hints and Tips" series has been requested by several people: How do you choose which seedlings to keep and eventually register? In this series, three or four hybridizers share their thoughts on a topic. If this question appeals to you and you would be willing to share a bit about your selection process, please let me know! This series is a great resource for beginning hybridizers who will appreciate your insights and experiences.

2. In our Winter issue last year, we spotlighted one new introduction from any Region 2 hybridizer who wanted to contribute. I hope to include that same feature again in our 2026 Winter issue. It was such a beautiful layout to see examples of such a great variety of new creations. So hybridizers, please email a photo of one of your recent introductions to me at greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com. Thanks!



Correction: In Cathy Coulson's "Moon Gardens and Nocturnal Pollinators" article in the spring edition, I incorrectly captioned this as a male Cecropia Moth. Many of you are too savvy to let that error go. In fact, Cathy had sent me the correction when she saw the article draft. But I missed her email prior to printing. Apologies. This is a Polyphemus Moth.

Garden and Exhibition Judges Update

By Sandra Dunn, Region 2 Co-Garden Judge Liaison

Just to be clear, I am not the Exhibition Judge Liaison for our Region, though I am writing a bit about that here. Laurel Richardson and Nikki Schmith share that role. I am the co-Garden Judge Liaison with Hilary Hefernan. But for the past several months, I have been living in both worlds—as a Garden Judge instructor and an Exhibition Judge student. Both have been very enjoyable!

There has been a push this year for more Region 2 folks to become Garden and Exhibition Judges. And people have responded! I had taken Exhibition Judges 1 a year ago, but had not yet continued with the second class. When Nikki offered Exhibition Judges 1 in June, over 60 people from around the country signed up, myself included. I felt the refresher would be beneficial. Nikki's enthusiasm, passion for judging, and extensive knowledge made for such an inspiring class.

I landed in Lafayette for the Summer Meeting just in time to dash upstairs for the Exhibition Judging 2 class. Cynthia Cory did such a lovely job of leading us through the process of evaluating on-scape daylilies, with support from Steve Thompson and Laurel Richardson. The hands-on judging of a variety of cultivars and seedlings, and the feedback for our assessments, was so helpful. Five of us successfully completed the requirements of the class, putting us one step further along the journey to become an accredited Junior Exhibition Judge. We are now ready to volunteer in show settings to learn more and continue our training.



Exhibition Judges 2 Class students and instructors at the Summer Meeting in Lafayette.



As to Garden Judging, Sandy Holmes and I offered the first class via Zoom three times during June and July. Over 30 people participated, most of them Region 2 folks. Some are relatively new to the world of daylilies. Others have been growing daylilies for years, but responded to the call for serving the Region in this way. We have continued to meet monthly on Zoom, focusing on whatever questions come up, such as finding opportunities to take Garden Judging 2 and accessing the online ballot. If any current Garden Judges would like to join in our conversations, email me at alongthefencedaylilies@gmail.com and I will send you the link for our November 3 Zoom meeting. We would love to learn from and with you!

Over 20 people participated in the Garden Judges 2 workshop in Lafayette (photo above) and several more in a workshop Rhonda Veroeven facilitated in Wisconsin. At least 10 of those folks completed all steps of the application process and were appointed in time to vote on this year's Awards and Honors ballot. I think that is more people than we have certified in the past three years!

Exhibition Judges 1 and Garden Judges 1 are typically offered via Zoom in October and February, but I don't know the dates yet. I will post them on the Region 2 Facebook page when they are announced. If you are considering becoming an Exhibition Judge and have questions, reach out to Laurel or Nikki. For questions about becoming a Garden Judge, reach out to Hilary or me. Contact information for all of us is on page two of this newsletter. These are two great opportunities to learn more and be of service to the Region.

Region 2 In Search of a New President

Nominating Committee

Monique Warnke's term as our Region 2 President ends on December 31, 2026. The process of electing our new president begins long before that. A Nominating Committee was formed at the 2025 Summer Meeting. Committee Members are:

Mike Anders
anders@findlay.edu

Sandy Holmes
ohiodaylily@yahoo.com

Laurel Richardson
lhabitat@aol.com

Applications Accepted Through November 1, 2025

If you are interested in running for the position of Region 2 President, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members prior to November 1, 2026.

This two-year term will begin in January, 2027. The Region 2 President is the primary leadership position for the Region and is responsible for day to day operations. Oversight includes two member meetings as well as an annual planning meeting which is shared with Region 2 members in the newsletter. The Region's travel policy includes specific reimbursements for required meetings. In order to apply you must be a member of the ADS for three years and a current Region 2 member. You must not have been the Region President for at least two years.

Next Steps

After November 1, the Nominating Committee will interview each candidate and make a recommendation by mid-November. That recommendation will be shared at the Winter Meeting and the ballot will be printed in the spring newsletter with instructions for its return. Write-in candidates are allowed with the candidate's permission. The new president will be announced at the Summer Meeting 2026.

Shirley Farmer's Midwest Daylily Hybridizers' Meeting

The Shirley Farmer Meeting is a hidden gem in our Region. While not an official Region 2 activity, participation in this meeting is a highlight for Region 2 hybridizers and collectors, as well as hybridizers from other Regions. The next meeting is Saturday, November 1, from roughly 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The meeting is held at the Double Tree Inn Dayton/Fairborn in Fairborn, Ohio. Many people arrive the evening before and have dinner together.

The fall meeting is typically a "share your pictures" meeting where hybridizers show photos of their newest introductions and most promising seedlings. Where else can you get an entire day of mini-presentations from hybridizers with wide-ranging goals and interests—and for only the cost of lunch? From first-time presenters to seasoned veterans, all hybridizers are welcome to present in this supportive setting that still reflects the tone Shirley Farmer set when she first organized this gathering 30 years ago. But you don't need to be a hybridizer or presenter to come and enjoy the day.



Sandy Holmes is the coordinator. Contact her at ohiodaylily@yahoo.com for more information and to let her know if you plan to attend. You can also check out the website for details: <http://www.midwesthybridizers.com>.

Region 2 2025 Howard Hite Award for Hybridizing Excellence

by Gail Braunstein, Awards and Honors Chair

Jerry Marlatt, Ogden Station Daylilies



Jerry and Lisa Marlatt
following the announcement of
Jerry's winning of the Howard Hite
Award for Hybridizing Excellence

Photo by Barb Buikema

Congratulations are extended to Jerry Marlatt of Ogden Station Daylilies in Blissfield, Michigan, for winning the Region 2 Howard Hite Award for 2025.

This year members of Region 2 nominated five exceptional candidates for the Hite Award. The selection committee is composed of a representative from each state in the region. The selection of Jerry Marlatt was unanimous. Jerry has been nominated prior to this year and has definitely earned the honor of the Howard Hite Award.

Jerry has spent most of his life in the Blissfield area. He has been married to Lisa for

52 years. He and Lisa have 2 children, Anne and Nathan and 12 grandchildren. Jerry and Lisa live on the family farm, which has been in Lisa's family for nearly 150 years. The name "Ogden Station Daylilies" comes from a thriving early railroad town and it was an attempt to keep the name on the local map.

Family is incredibly important to Jerry and Lisa and they have encouraged the grandchildren to be involved in growing daylilies. Two of their grandchildren have hybridized and registered their own introductions. Granddaughter Ella registered "Perfect In Every Way" in 2020. Grandson Abram registered "Corona's Wrath" in 2021. Jerry and Lisa hope that other grandchildren will develop a love of hybridizing.

Jerry has more than met the criteria for the Howard Hite Award. It all started in 2007 when he purchased 400 unnamed seedlings from Fred Sheill, locally known as "The Daylily King." Not knowing much about daylilies, Jerry knew he loved the beautiful colors, and in 2009 he began to hybridize. His first registration 'Merry Margarite' was in 2014. Since then he has registered 111 cultivars, and has 15 names reserved for future registrations.

Jerry's hybridizing program consists of something for everyone—toothy edges, appliques, ruffles, sculptured blooms, cristate blooms, and broken patterns. All the while he has been working for better branching and bud count. Bloom size ranges from 4 to 10 inches and one can find both dips and tets.

Jerry's favorite introduction to date is "Brokenness Is What I Long For." Many of the Region 2 members who nominated Jerry expressed their love of some specific cultivars of Jerry's, including "God's Mercy," "Incredible Ada," "No Need For Dentures," and "Don't Go Bacon My Heart."



'Brokenness is What I Long For'
(Marlatt-J., 2024)

*Photos by Lisa Marlatt
unless otherwise noted*



'No Need for Dentures'
(Marlatt-J., 2020)



'Incredible Ada'
(Marlatt-J., 2014)

Photo by Mary Ann Cleary

ADS Region 2 Great Lakes Daylily

Truly an ambassador for promoting daylilies, he has spoken to a number of regional clubs and has presented at the Shirley Farmer Hybridizers' Meeting. He has a background in biology and chemistry and enjoys sharing information about weed control, pest control, and fertilizer. Jerry has donated many plants for local club and Region 2 auctions, including "I Think I Love You" and "Jolly Joanna" this year at the Summer Meeting. Many who grow 'Jolly Joanna' describe it as the whitest daylily in their garden.

The Marlatts have a Display Garden for both ADS and the National Wildlife Federation. Their farm includes a ten acre of conservation area with an emphasis on native pollinators.

Grateful for those who encouraged him, Jerry expressed how much he appreciates Charlie Harper, Mike Anders, and John Heinze. He also offered special thanks to Sandy Holmes for sharing her expertise.

Jerry has a true passion for daylilies, but the passion for his wife Lisa is second to none. Jerry says Lisa is his rock. She handles their website, takes the photos, and keeps Jerry organized. She is also in charge of composting the seedlings that just do not make the cut, the ones that Jerry just does not have the heart to toss.

His advice to beginner hybridizers is to join a daylily club and to attend as many meetings and daylily conferences as possible. He also recommends that you plan your hybridizing, but be flexible. Think outside the box and make some "crazy crosses."

Congrats Jerry! Your Howard Hite Award is well-deserved.

A special thanks to the Southern Michigan Daylily Society for sponsoring the Howard Hite Award.

Editor's Note: You can learn more about Ogden Station Daylilies and the Marlatts' hybridizing program in prior GLD articles:

Winter 2022: "Our Daylily Journey on the Family Farm" by Lisa Marlatt

Winter 2024: "Reflections of Fred Sheill" by Jerry and Lisa Marlatt

Spring 2025: "What's in a Name?" by Lisa Marlatt

The Ogden Station Daylilies website is <https://ogdenstationdaylilies.com/>.



'Jolly Joanna'
(Marlatt-J., 2016)



'Don't Go Bacon My Heart'
(Marlatt-J., 2020)
Photo by Mary Ann Cleary



One section of the field
at Ogden Station Daylilies



A variety of Jerry's promising seedlings



DAYLILIES

— OH MY STARS

**JOHN
KINNEBREW**

**BOBBI
JOHNSON**

**STEVEN
FRANKLIN**

**RAD
DREW**

**MICHELLE
ROGERS**

**MIKE
HOLMES**

**KIRSTEN
HATFIELD**

Embassy Suites NW - 3912 Vincennes Rd



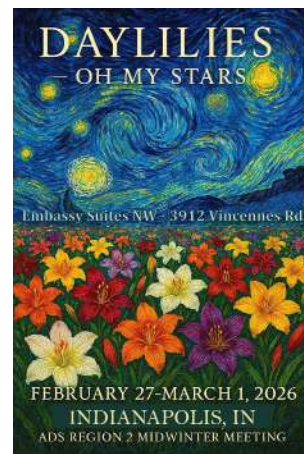
FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, 2026

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

ADS REGION 2 MIDWINTER MEETING

For more information, please visit the Region 2 website: <https://adsregion2.org/winter-meeting/>

**2026 American Daylily Society Region 2
Winter Symposium Registration
February 27-March 1, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana**



Please send this form and your check made out to **ADS Region 2 to Patti Byerley, Registrar, 3680 E Old Goshen Road SE, Laconia, IN 47135**

Registration can also be completed online at the Region 2 website:
<https://adsregion2.org/about/region-2-winter-meeting/>

Attendee Information:

Attendee Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____ Region: _____

May we publish your contact information in the attendee list? ____ yes ____ no

Conference Registration: Registration fee includes Friday and Saturday dinners. Saturday lunch is on your own.

Hotel is not included.

\$139/person (before February 14) \$ _____ \$159/person (after February 14) \$ _____

☐ Check here for youth (18 and younger) to request that their registration be reimbursed from our Region 2 Youth Fund.

Name of youth member(s): _____

If you will have a guest attending the dinner on Friday or Saturday night, fill out the area below.

Friday dinner guest name(s): _____ \$ _____ \$50 per guest

Saturday dinner guest name(s): _____ \$ _____ \$50 per guest

Please note any dietary or mobility/accessibility needs for you or your guests: _____

* * * **Total check amount (registrations, extra dinners)** \$ _____ * * *

Symposium Speakers:

Bobbi Johnson, Johnson Daylilies and Iris
Kirsten Hatfield, Dorsets N Daylilies
Mike Holmes, Riverbend Daylilies
Steven Franklin, Merry and Bright Daylilies

John Kinnebrew, Spacecoast Daylilies
Michelle Rogers, Ellison Daylilies
Rad Drew, on I-Phone Photography

Cancellation Policy: Full refund if notice is received by 2/1/2026. Refund of 50% if received 2/1-2/14/2026. No refund after 2/14 except for health emergencies, but you may transfer your registration to someone if you can't attend. Please let the registrar know ASAP of any changes.

Hotel Information: The conference will be held at Embassy Suites NW, 3912 Vincennes Rd., Indianapolis, Indiana, 46268. Their phone number is 317-244-3261. Mention ADS Region 2 for the reduced rate of \$159 plus tax for a room with two queen beds. The special rate will be available until January 27 or our block of rooms has been filled, whichever comes first. The rooms include a complimentary breakfast. Attendees must book their own rooms. It is advised to book early. Cancellations can be made without penalty until five days prior to your reservation.

Direct ADS-rate link: available if registering via our Region 2 website

The Saga of 'Brookwood Blanchita'

Article and photos by Gene Crocker

This article was originally published in *Hemalina*, the Region 15 newsletter (Spring, 2025). Many thanks to author Gene Crocker and *Hemalina* editor Ariel Bledsoe for allowing us to reprint it here.

In December of 2018 a new movie opened in theaters across the country. The name of the movie was "The Mule" and it told a Hollywood version of the true story of Leo Sharp, a daylily hybridizer from Michigan City, Indiana. His garden was known as "Brookwood Daylilies." Leo introduced and registered 184 new daylilies, most of which had "Brookwood" as the first part of the name.



Leo Sharp

Courtesy of daughter Carla Sharp

Leo was a successful daylily grower for many years. He registered his hybrids starting in 1990. Almost all of them were small flowers, with 84 of them registered as having a 3.5 to 4.5 inch bloom. He published a color catalog and had a successful business until internet advertising and web sites became commonplace. He was elderly and was not ready to jump into the internet, so his business began to fail.

Some of his workers in the garden were Mexican, and one of them suggested to Leo that he could bolster his income by contacting individuals in Texas who would like for him to transport some items from Texas to Detroit, Michigan. Leo drove his old pickup truck to Texas and returned home with the delivery and some cash. This continued for several years, and no one knows how soon he learned he was transporting cocaine for a Mexican drug cartel. He was in his late 80s and was not highly suspected as a drug runner ("drug mule"). After several years, he had earned over one million dollars. Then a tip to the US Drug Enforcement Agency from an informer let them know about Leo, who was called "El Tata" (the grandfather). Leo was caught by the DEA

when he was 87 years old. In 2013 he was sentenced to three years in prison, but his health declined rapidly, and he was released after 18 months. He lived an additional 18 months after his release and died on December 12, 2016. Since he was a decorated World War 2 veteran, his remains were interred in the US National Cemetery at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii.

Clint Eastwood, at the age of 87, played Leo ("Earl Stone") in the movie. My wife Kitty and I went to see the movie and enjoyed it. The impression on me was that I wanted to purchase some of the "Brookwood" daylilies for my garden. I have always had a great interest in small flowers, so there were many to choose from. I first contacted Shady Rest Gardens in Georgia and Doris Bishop sent me a list of Brookwoods they had available. One of her favorites was 'Brookwood Blanchita,' which she pointed out was not registered with the American Hemerocallis Society. It was created and named by Leo Sharp and he introduced it to daylily growers. I bought several of the Brookwood varieties from the Bishops in the



'Brookwood Blanchita' (Sharp-Crocker, 2025)

spring of 2019 and 'Brookwood Blanchita' became a favorite—one of the prettiest small-flowered daylilies I have seen.

In June of 2024, 'Brookwood Blanchita' flowered especially well and I kept thinking what a shame it was that this variety was not eligible for AHS awards. In July, I sent in a registration form listing Leo Sharp as the originator and me as the registrant. I received a reply from Elizabeth Trotter (AHS Registrar) that I must have permission from the originator or a member of their family to use the Brookwood name and register the daylily under Leo's name. I was disappointed but determined not to give up.

I accumulated all the information I could find about Leo Sharp and his daylilies, including some articles about his trial and conviction for being a drug runner. One of the articles had the name of his defense lawyer, Darryl Goldberg of Chicago. I decided to start with Mr. Goldberg, so I wrote him two letters and left a phone message on his voice mail. He called me back and said he was sorry, but he had lost touch with all of Leo's family and could not help me. I then decided to check with funeral homes in Michigan City, Indiana, where he died, and in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he was buried. After sending several letters, I received a response from only one of them saying that they could not help me.

In one of the articles there was a reference to Leo's friend, Greg Bartosuk. I found his address online and wrote to him, but his address had changed. I then checked with White Pages for people named Sharp in Michigan City and I did receive a couple of references. By subscribing to White Pages I found more detailed information, including some information for men named



Clump of 'Brookwood Blanchita'

Sharp who might be related to Leo. I wrote to four of them, including one referenced as Leo Sharp, Jr., but after writing to Leo, Jr. twice, my letters to him were returned.

Another of the White Pages references was to a Carla Sharp in Hawaii. Since I knew Leo's wife had lived in Hawaii, I decided to call her. One evening, a few days after my call, I got a response from Carla, Leo's daughter, who said she would be happy to approve the registration and she knew Leo would be thrilled. She gave me her address, so I sent her more information and a self-addressed envelope. On December 9, I received her approval and forwarded it on to Elizabeth Trotter that same day. Carla also sent me a photo taken in 1996 that shows her with her father, her mother Ann, and her brother Leo Sharp, Jr. I forwarded the permission form and a check to the AHS registrar and on December 18 I received confirmation of the registration, which was listed as a 2025 registration. This was the conclusion of my quest that began in July.

I am so happy that persistence paid off. I like all the Brookwood varieties and now have several in my garden. Leo Sharp was a gifted daylily hybridizer and well respected in the daylily world. He worked with and shared plants with Pauline Henry of "Siloam" fame and with Walter Jablonski, breeder of the famous Stella de Oro. All his daylilies have grown and flowered well for me, but 'Brookwood Blanchita' is special.



L to R: Leo Sharp, daughter Carla, wife Ann, and son Leo, Jr. in 1996. *Photo courtesy of Carla Sharp.*

A Variety of 'Brookwood' Introductions

Photos by Gene Crocker



'Brookwood Black Kitten'
(Sharp, 1995)



'Brookwood Hiawatha'
(Sharp, 1998)



'Brookwood Wow'
(Sharp, 1994)



'Brookwood Pink Frost'
(Sharp, 1991)



'Brookwood Lee Causey'
(Sharp, 1998)



'Brookwood Fantasia'
(Sharp, 1995)



'Brookwood Futuro'
(Sharp, 1997)



'Brookwood Magnifique'
(Sharp, 1995)



'Brookwood Red Royal'
(Sharp, 1994)

Summer Meeting 2025

Introduction by Lori Doolin



Back Home In Indiana was the theme for this year's 2025 Region 2 Summer Meeting held in Lafayette, Indiana. This Region 2-sponsored meeting was hosted by two Indiana clubs—the Indiana Daylily and Iris Society (IDIS) and the Hoosier Daylily Society (HooDS)—with support from the Region 2 team. There were so many wonderful things that were offered at this year's meeting:

- two registration gift plants from Bob and Nancy Watson: 'Moon Over The Wabash' and 'Hoosier Belle'
- four stunning tour gardens as you will read in the reflections to follow
- guest speakers Charles and Heidi Douglas of Brown's Ferry Gardens
- a hybridizers' discussion forum
- a variety of youth activities
- the Silent Auction of unique items
- the Live Plant Auction of over 120 cultivars
- a Mini Auction of Charles and Heidi Douglas introductions
- well-attended instruction classes on Garden Judging and Exhibition Judging
- a well-stocked hospitality room
- free bus plants
- IDIS and HooDS plant sales
- delicious food (including Stookey's Family Restaurant, over and above expectations)
- and, as always, friendship between daylily people!



Lori Doolin

Chair Lori Doolin and Co-Chair Bob Watson are thankful to those from Region 2, IDIS, and HooDS who helped with the planning and execution of this successful meeting. And to everyone who attended!



Attendees had to make hard decisions when voting at the Englerth Bed



Youth members were excellent helpers at the live auction



The onion rings at Stookey's were a crowd favorite!



Customized buffet signs at the hotel



Some of the many Silent Auction items available



Rhonda Veroeven and the youth making fairy gardens

Sugar Creek Gardens: A Gallery of Treasures

Reflections by Linda Shields

Our Region 2 Summer 2025 Daylily Conference, held in Lafayette, Indiana, truly began for me when our lop-sidedly air-conditioned tour bus eased up to the Sugar Creek Daylily Gardens in Darlington, Indiana. Visiting a garden like the Lough's was, to me, like strolling through a New York art gallery — jaw dropping in its size, stunning in its beauty and unbelievable in its variety.



The expanse of colorful daylilies gave me pause, just like when I walk into a museum or gallery — which way should I go? The Monets, the Sargents, the Glints — I shook my head. Today was about the daylily artists: Hanson, Gossard, Kirchhoff and others. The 2,300 or more daylilies grown by Greg and Jayne Lough were an impressive sight as I descended from the bus steps. Spread out from left to right, in even and alphabetical rows, catalogued by name, hybridizer and year, daylilies grew as far as the eye could see along the sunny open stretch of the country highway.

Jayne Lough made a wonderful daylily docent cheerfully strolling with a ubiquitous cup of morning beverage as she answered our questions. A Garden Judges' class



was being held on our Bus #2; they rapidly convened and began conducting instructions apart from the rest of the bus's eager daylily connoisseurs.

As I took off by myself, just as I would have at any gallery, I began looking for that "thing" which would touch my soul that day...the combination of color, the movement of line, the play of light, or the discovery of the unusual. It was the never knowing what that "thing" might be which drove me round the next corner down one more row and bending over one more flower. And there were so many rows of flowers and art structures to see at Sugar Creek.

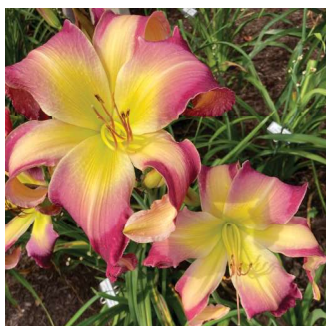
I happened upon a small grouping of daylilies from one of my favorite hybridizers, Curt Hanson. The colors of Curt Hanson's flowers have always delighted me, ever since I purchased my first, 'Custom Upholstery' (Hanson-C, 2018). Hanson daylilies impress me with their endurance and performance, and thrill me with their variety. Below are just a few of the Hanson selections I found at Sugar Creek.



Curt Hanson introductions, clockwise, from top right: 'Crintonic Fireball' (2021), 'Behind the Mask' (2019), 'The Loner' (2022), and 'Tigrillo Afternoon' (2018)

Photos by Linda Shields and Sandra Dunn

In my gardens at home, one could also find some of Jamie Gossard's magnificent daylilies like 'Heavenly United We Stand' (Gossard, 2009) the 2017 Stout Silver Medal Award winner. I was thrilled at the Gossard selections I found at Sugar Creek. I was excited also to discover two pollen pushers who are well-known, though unfamiliar to me—Pete Webb and Judy Davisson.



Clockwise, from top right: 'What the Soul Desires' (Webb-P., 2023), 'Banana Python' (Gossard, 2017), 'Casanova Club' (Davisson, J., 2024), and 'Mayor of Prophetstown' (Webb-P., 2019).

I knew immediately my soul had been tickled when I found a pair of whimsically-related daylilies by none other than the pattern master himself, Bob Faulkner. They were named 'Dr. Jekyll' and 'Mr. Hyde'. I most assuredly will need to revisit Sugar Creek online soon, for as I was preparing to leave the gallery...oops, sorry, the garden, I reluctantly realized I had hardly viewed a fraction of its treasures.



'Dr. Jekyll' (Faulkner, 2018)



'Mr. Hyde' (Faulkner, 2018)



Sugar Creek
owners
Greg and Jayne
Lough



'Anthrazoid Lemonade'
(Clement, 2014)



'Shores of Time'
(Stamile, 2002)



Sutters Garden: WOW, so colorful!

Reflections by Sharon VanderWilp



Photo by Ginny Pearce

My first introduction to Linda and Gregg Sutter's Daylily Farm was right here in the pages of the *Great Lakes Daylily* with an article written a few years ago. I recall thinking that if I had a "bucket list," a visit to this garden certainly would have been on it. This winter when I was looking at the 2025 Summer Meeting information considering whether or not to attend, I was very happy to see that one of the gardens attendees would be visiting was Sutter's Daylily Farm. That's all I needed to start making plans to attend the Summer Meeting.

I arrived in Indiana a day prior to the Summer Meeting so that I could visit some "Open Gardens." My first stop of the morning was a lovely residential garden with lots of daylilies to see. As I was leaving, the garden owner apologized that his garden was a bit past peak (I hadn't noticed that!) but said that the gardens we would be seeing on Saturday were all amazing and would be in peak bloom, as they were an hour north. He went on to say that he had passed by one of the gardens earlier that week and then smiled and gave me a "you just wait" kind of look. I visited two other wonderful open

gardens near Indianapolis and then it was time to head north to Lafayette by way of Highway US 52.

The drive was mile upon mile of corn fields until.... a blast of color! I felt my lower jaw hit my lap, managed to keep my car from veering off the road, and then just started laughing out loud! That is ALL daylilies, I thought. Could it be the Sutter's Garden? Gotta admit I felt a little silly laughing about how beautiful the scene was and I knew that I was in for a real treat come Saturday, just like the garden owner promised.

Our first stop on Saturday was Sutter's Daylily Farm. Just as I was thinking that we must be getting close, our bus captain, Rhonda Veroeven announced, "If you want to look off to the left, you will get a clue as to what we are in for." I heard a WOW from a few seats ahead, another WOW across the aisle then WOW... WOW...WOW from all points of the bus as the sight came into everyone's view. Wait... I think I heard some laughter too!

We had arrived! This location hosted the Englerth bed and most of us headed right over there to get our ballots cast. There were so many daylilies in bloom and many entries had not only pretty faces, but great plant habits too.

Voting was difficult. I finally made my decision and was off to explore all 108 acres of the Sutter Daylily Farm. I looked to the east (oh my) then west (another beau-



Photos by Sandra Dunn
unless noted

tiful vista). Which way should I go first?!? I must have looked like a cat chasing its tail.

About ten acres of the property is planted with rows of daylilies. Gregg Sutter said his goal is 50' of a single cultivar making sure to alternate the colors. This creates the stunning "swaths" of color over the property. Gregg told us, "I don't want to come home at the end of the day and not see this." There were also gardens of single clumps of labelled cultivars from a wide variety of hybridizers. Judy Davisson is one of Gregg's favorite hybridizers and he currently has 74 of her introductions.



Their home, built in 1848, had been lived in by only one family for five generations when the Sutters purchased it at an estate sale approximately 40 years ago. Linda said she would not want to live anywhere else! The previous owner loved racing horses and often took his horses to the track in Chicago. That owner was able to completely pay for the very large barn, which is still standing today, with the winnings of one particularly successful horse. Surrounding the lovely home were colorful gardens including flowering shrubs, iris, hosta, other perennials and a vegetable garden. There is also a small lake on the property. Gregg was having a problem with excessive vegetation this spring so someone suggested introducing tilapia to the water. He reported that the tilapia are happy and his issue is resolved.



Since the tilapia won't survive the winter, a member of his daylily club suggested a fall fish fry. I got hungry just thinking about that event! Little did I know then that our next stop would be Stookey's Restaurant in Thorntown for a tasty catfish lunch (filet mignon for the beef lovers).

After a wonderful visit, it was time to board the bus. As we pulled away, Rhonda Veroeven asked, "So what did you all think about that?" This time the "WOW" was in unison! Rhonda went on to say that it reminded her of the tulip fields in Holland. Someone toward the back of the bus exclaimed, "OMG—that is EXACTLY what I just texted someone!"

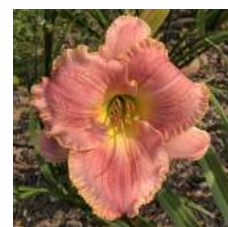
Thank you so much, Linda and Gregg Sutter, for creating such a gorgeous sight and for sharing it with us and all who are lucky enough to pass by.



Gregg and Linda Sutter
with 'Reach for the Heavens' (Gossard, 2006)
Photo by Sharon VanderWilp



The Englerth Bed was beautifully maintained. Voting was difficult.



'Linda Sutter'
(Hanson-Webb, 2017)



Clement Garden: The Cat's Meow

Reflections by Charlie Harper and Sandra Dunn

Charlie: When the spirit moves him, Bret Clement is only a 45 minute drive from his home in Carmel, Indiana to a three-quarter acre plot provided by Greg and Linda Sutter on the Sutter property. This small plot is the current "Clement Garden" where Bret does his hybridizing, seedling growing and selection, and maintains his sales plants. Here on the edge of the colossal Sutter Garden, some of the best hybridizing in Region 2 takes place.

Our winner of the 2015 Hite Award for Hybridizing has registered 281 cultivars in just about every form imaginable. While 182 of Bret's introductions are Unusual Forms, he has also registered seven spiders, two small flowers, thirty-four extra-large flowers, one double, and two that are frequently polymericous.

Bret's daylily names compliment his beautiful flowers; they are humorous, often thought provoking. He applies his mastery of puns by substituting key words into other's daylily names or popular phrases. His favorites are "cat" and "Hobbit." Other themes include legal and religious topics and notable human behaviors. He's not beyond poking fun at politicians, regardless of Party. Talk about not taking yourself too seriously!

Walking his select seedling bed with Bret, it was clear that he was strictly focused on excellence. Out of literally hundreds, he has selected 30 to watch this year, shooting for about 15 introductions. From a distance, they blended into the confusion of massed varying colors and shapes. But viewed more closely, their distinct attributes were apparent. We're looking forward to seeing the best of his best in next year's offerings.



Bret Clement and Charlie Harper

Photos by Bret Clement, Sandra Dunn, and Ginny Pearce



Above, A few of Bret's favorite seedlings from 2025



Saundra: What a difference a different bus makes. Our group didn't arrive at Bret's until after lunch, but more importantly only an hour or so before a big storm. That left very little time to make our Englerth choices, take in the Sutters' acres of daylilies, and explore Bret's hundreds of introductions and thousands of seedlings. I agree with all that Charlie said about the variety and quality of Bret's plants. I grow several Clement introductions and the more mature they become, the more I appreciate them. And how can you not love his names?¹

But one of my biggest take-aways was less about the flowers and more about us—the gardeners. Even as it became clear that we were about to be poured on, we continued to wander through the Sutters' garden and Bret's garden. Greg and Linda Sutter graciously rounded up a few umbrellas and passed them out to those of us who were totally unprepared for this.

As I began my exploration of Bret's seedlings and introductions, the rain really began to come down. Yet Bret continued to answer questions, point out promising seedlings, and rock his just-for-this-occasion cat shirt. As I was noticing his Junior Citation candidates in particular, I could overhear some interesting hybridizer-to-hybridizer-conversations as well.



A few folks (wisely) headed to the bus when the first lightning was seen. But what amazed me most was how many of us didn't. The danger didn't seem completely upon us yet and there were still so many interesting seedlings to see. The pull of the flowers seemed far more powerful than the push to seek shelter.

¹ The *Great Lakes Daylily* Winter 2022 edition featured Bret's introductions in our "What's in a Name?" series. It can be found in the newsletter archives in the Member Portal of the ADS website (daylilies.org).

We did eventually have to cut our visit short as the lightning got closer and the bus seemed to be preparing to take off. And honestly, no matter what the allotted time, it wouldn't have been enough to take in all that there was to see in Bret's garden. I am just so grateful for the time we did get to spend there.



Kirsten Hatfield and
John Hric



Sandy Holmes and
Mike Heffernan



Above: Joe Monnin and
Ray Rayburg
Right: Saundra Dunn and
Bret Clement



Webb Garden: Trees on Display

Reflections by Bobbi Johnson

Getting up early to ride on a packed tour bus with potentially 55 other daylily enthusiasts is something that can cause enduring anxiety, even panic, from the sheer excitement radiating in the atmosphere, especially when you know you're going to see not only hundreds but thousands of daylilies in one day. Well, it's true. It does happen.



Webb future intro

But seeing Pete and Angel Webb's Garden first thing in the morning, knowing you'll see thousands of seedlings alone, will be a site to behold. When the bus pulls to a stop and all you see is saturated color and large flowers from afar, you know it's going to be a good day among friends. Excitement is buzzing higher than before; it's a rush to get to the first clumps to take in the wow factor and the view. However, walking up to the

beds and realizing the size of those scapes and the number of branches on those tree-like monsters—I mean scapes—holding that bouquet of blooms is something else to behold entirely.

While walking through the massive clumps of daylilies, many visitors commented on how clean the rows were. Pete and Angel went above and beyond to ensure foliage wasn't in the way of the paths by trimming back



Photos by Bobbi Johnson, Sandra Dunn, and Pete Webb

the overflow of leaves to make their garden even more enjoyable for all who attended. Not to mention the layout of the beds left many visitors drooling with the multitude of shaded blooms in full color for the perfect opportunity to take those award-winning photos that we all love to see in our newsletter.



Being able to talk briefly with Pete about a few of his selected seedlings, I could clearly see how proud and passionate he was as he went over the stats and what he liked the most about each seedling that he was evaluating from the thousands he had planted. Pete makes the most of the space he has available by cycling through the seedlings, ensuring the scapes are above the foliage, and branches are plentiful on those tree-like scapes. A few of the prior year's seedlings were blooming for the first time while we were there and should be a rainbow of color in the next year or so.

Pete and Angel have cultivated something amazing amongst the Hanson, Davisson, Bush, Benz, Emmerich, Korth and other northern-bred cultivars. Daylilies that have trees for scapes and candelabra branches with huge saturated colored flowers are what we all dream of. Webb's garden



has thousands of seedlings and cultivars that keep your eyes entertained for hours and represent their years of work. I highly recommend anyone in the area stop and visit the Webb's Daylily Garden. It will be a visit that you will never forget.



Above: One of many seedlings that attracted tour visitor's attention and sparked conversation



The Webbs have extensive Judy Davisson and Curt Hanson collections, beautifully displayed in huge clumps. Left: "The Big Distraction (Hanson-C., 2024). Below left: 'Judy Davisson' (Davisson-J., 2022). Below right: 'Island Point Thunder' (Davisson-J., 2022)



These fiery clumps just begged to have their photo taken. Top: Xavier Heffernan with 'Gem City Scallywag' (Webb-P., 2025). Above: Sarah Newell with 'Gem City Firebird' (Webb-P., 2022)



Above: Jerry Marlatt (left) and Barry Pratt enjoying their visit to the Webb Garden



Above: Garden Judging 2 class members examining those tree-like scapes



Third year selected seedlings



'Angel Webb' (Webb-P., 2022)

More Summer Meeting Photos

By Sandra Dunn



A warm greeting from registrar Patti Byerley and Barb Buikema, with lovely flowers from the Heffernans' Color Your World Flower Farm.



Our guest speakers Heidi and Charles Douglas entertained attendees with gorgeous photos, stories of their hybridizing journeys, amusing banter, and even tips for weed control.



Exhibition Judges 2 Class: Mike Kuduk (Region 10), Steve Thompson, Cynthia Cory, Amy Grotlund, Laurel Richardson, Laurie Jacques, Nancy Secrist (and Sandra Dunn behind the camera).



Above: Richard Norris enjoying the Douglas' presentation.
Left: Ron Byerly bringing in plants he and Patti donated.



Left: Just a couple of Stout Medal winners chatting at dinner: Sandy Holmes (2020 for 'I Lava You' and Heidi Douglas (2025 for 'Breathing in Snowflakes').



Above: Ed Kraus facilitated the Hybridizers' Forum-- always an opportunity for asking questions and sharing knowledge with one another.



Right: Jennifer Reed (Reg.3) and Kirsten Hatfield. Jennifer invited us to the 2027 ADS National Convention, sponsored by the Tidewater (VA) Daylily Society.





Jane Herr and Rusty Neal,
Silent Auction coordinators.



Thanks to the amazing generosity of hybridizers and collectors, the auction overflowed with amazing plants to purchase. Even the adults had a little trouble staying fully engaged, so you can't blame the youth helpers for sometimes losing focus. :)



Greg Beavers and Mike Anders, Live Auction coordinators (and plant procurement team).



Bob Faulkner friends and family in matching Summer Meeting tee-shirts: Joe Monnin, Ray Rayburn, Nichole Kedler, Barb Buikema, Barb Kedler, and Bob Buikema.



Attendees voting for the Englerth Award winner, hosted at the Sutters' Garden.



Virgil and Sandy Huhmann, in search of cultivars on the Awards and Honors ballot.



Above: Gail Braunstein, Mike Anders, and Bobbi Johnson, Planning Committee Members.

Above, right: Winding down in the Hospitality Suite.

Left: Amy Bigler with one of the beautiful arrangements from Color Your World Flower Farm.



Summer Meeting Notes and Business Meeting Minutes

By Lori Doolin, Region 2 Secretary

2025 Region 2 “Back Home In Indiana” Summer Meeting, Lafayette, Indiana Friday, July 18, 2025

Monique Warnke, Region 2 President, was unable to attend due to illness. Lori Doolin, as Chair, welcomed everyone to this year’s “Back Home In Indiana” Region 2 Summer Meeting. This meeting was sponsored by Region 2 with the support of 2 Indiana daylily clubs - Hoosier Daylily Society (HooDS) and Indiana Daylily and Iris Society (IDIS).

Appreciation was given to Bob Watson as the Meeting Co-Chair, to Bob and Nancy Watson for their donation of the registration plants, and to this year’s garden owners - Gregg and Linda Sutter of Sutters Garden, Greg and Jayne Lough of Sugar Creek Daylily Garden, Pete and Angel Webb of Webb’s Daylily Garden, and Bret Clement of the Clement Garden.

Further appreciation was extended to ALL Region 2 attendees and to those attendees representing six other states/Regions: Kentucky/Region 10, Florida/Region 12, New York/Region 4, Virginia/Region 3, Mississippi/Region 14, and South Carolina/Region 15. Recognition was given to first time attendees. Bob Buikema gave the invocation prior to dinner being served.

After dinner, Charles and Heidi Douglas of Brown’s Ferry Garden, Georgetown, South Carolina, gave a wonderful presentation on their and Gene Tanner’s new daylily cultivars, their seedlings, and how to keep your garden weed-free. A “mini” auction of Douglas introductions was held with proceeds going to the Youth Fund.

After the Douglas presentation, Mike Anders and Greg Beavers began the live auction of over 130 donated daylilies.

Saturday, July 19

On Saturday morning, bus captains Barb and Bob Buikema, Rhonda Veroven, and Ron and Patti Byerley helped attendees board their buses to view the four amazing gardens on tour. Attendees voted for their favorite seedling in the Englerth Bed at the Sutter garden. A delicious buffet-style lunch was served at Stookey’s Restaurant in Thorntown Indiana. Buses arrived back at the hotel for the evening activities.

Steven Thompson gave the invocation prior to dinner. After dinner, Rhonda Veroven, ADS President and Region 2 Director, began the evening meeting with the Director Report and the Region 2 Awards and Honors winners. Rhonda announced highlights from the ADS board meeting. She was proud to say that all positions have been filled within ADS. ADS has created an Endowments Policy which was needed to accept a 1.2 million dollar donation. Another donation of \$200,000 will be matched if ADS is able to raise \$200,000 within five years.

ADS has implemented Board Meetings via Zoom in addition to the normal schedule, the first being in January, 2026, to help existing Board Members with questions and onboarding.

There are new positions at ADS: The Test Garden Chair will be Doug Crider of Region 15. The Educational Program Chair will be Andrew Veroven of Region 2. The Awards and Honors Auditor will be Rhonda Veroven of Region 2.

Rhonda noted there is a change to the requirements of being an ADS Display Garden. The renewal process to be a display garden changes to every three years from of annual renewal.

There are two new photography awards, the first being for seedlings and the second for historic daylilies.

Rhonda announced that the new ADS President Elect is Rich Crider. One thing Rhonda will implore to the new Region 2 Director is that they fight to keep Region 2 together and not let it be split apart.

Rhonda shared the Region 2 Award Winners that were given out at the ADS National Convention. These are shared on pages 40-47 of this newsletter and so are not listed here. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Lori Doolin began the Region 2 Business meeting in Monique’s absence. Bobbi Johnson, Region 2 Treasurer, stated there was \$8,067.61 in checking, \$5,718.40 in savings, and \$52,650.11 in a CD for a total of \$66,436.12. With no questions from the floor, Bobbi noted the full report was in the Winter Issue of the Great Lakes Daylily Newsletter.

Lori Doolin, Region 2 Secretary stated that the minutes from the Region 2 Winter Meeting were published in the Spring Edition of the Great Lakes Daylily newsletter. With no amendments from the floor, the minutes were approved on a motion by Rhonda Veroven, second by Kirsten Hatfield, with all in favor.

It was mentioned that a new printer was contracted for the Region 2 Newsletter and if anyone has any concerns or comments, either negative or positive, to please contact Monique Warnke or Sandra Dunn. The new printing company saves the Region about \$2,000 per issue over the prior company but does ship from Arizona rather than Ohio.

In June, nomination ballots for the new Region 2 Director were emailed to members for whom there is an email address on file and mailed to everyone else. Greg Lough was unanimously elected to be the Region 2 Director for a three year term of January, 2026 through December 2028. Congratulations, Greg!

Lori, on behalf of Monique, asked for three volunteers from the audience to be on the Presidential Nominating Committee. Monique's term as Region 2 President ends on December 31, 2026. Those to volunteer were Laurel Richardson, Sandy Holmes, and Mike Anders. They are to coordinate with Monique for further instruction.

With no further Region 2 business, Gail Braunstein was introduced to present the winner of the Howard Hite Award and reveal the winner of the Englerth Award.

As mentioned earlier the hosts for this year's Englerth Bed were Gregg and Linda Sutter. Gail revealed the winners. In third place was tag number 36, seedling #2302, by Bret Clement of Indiana. In second place was tag number 17, seedling #2025-3, by Doug Verink of Michigan. The winning seedling was tag number 2, seedling #2023-5, by Genni Kleckner of Wisconsin.

Gail explained that the Howard Hite Award for hybridizing excellence is exclusive to Region 2 and has been sponsored by the Southern Michigan Daylily Society since 1989. The 32nd honoree of this award goes to a true ambassador of daylilies: Jerry Marlatt of Ogden Station Daylilies. Lisa Marlatt was asked to join Jerry to share this award. Truly appreciative, Jerry said he and Lisa will be celebrating 52 years of marriage in August, that he is as unorganized as she is organized, and he wouldn't be up there today without her. He also noted that as a hybridizer he has had a lot of help along the way and particularly thanked Charlie Harper for that help.

Lastly, Gail noted that the 2026 Englerth Bed at Monique's is full and no longer accepting daylilies. Carole Hunter in Illinois is accepting plants for the 2027 Englerth Bed.

Barb Buikema then took the stand to present the Bob Faulker Youth Scholarship. Scholarship Committee members Pat Titus and Sandra Dunn, Bob's sister Barb Kedler, his niece Nicole Kedler, and the new owners of Bob's garden, Ray Rayburg and Joe Monnin, also joined Barb to present the award. Barb announced that two scholarship awards would be given this year and they were awarded to Evelyn Titus and Ansley Titus (read more about these award winners on page 33).

Lori indicated that this year there were an exceptional number of new students attending the Garden Judge's class and the Exhibition Judges Class - five Exhibition students and 20 Garden Judge students. The new students along with current Exhibition and Garden Judges were asked to stand for recognition.

Lori then thanked everyone who helped in any way to put this years Region 2 Summer Meeting together and asked them to stand for recognition. She noted everyone took charge of their duties and without any issues everyone came together to put on a wonderful meeting.

Lori also recognized the youth members and thanked them for all they do to help at the meeting.

Another thank you was expressed to Hilary and Owen Heffernan for creating the beautiful flower bouquets on the tables.

Barb Buikema and Bobbi Johnson shared a video for the 2026 Region 2 Summer Meeting. This meeting will be hosted by the Wisconsin Daylily Society and will be held in Madison, WI on July 17-19, 2026. Barb and Bobbi invited everyone to attend.

The 2026 Summer Meeting registration and other meeting information will be released after the 2026 Region 2 Winter Symposium, which will be February 27 thru March 1, 2026, at the Embassy Suites NW in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Amanda Christensen of Chicagoland Daylily Society spoke briefly about the 2027 Region 2 Summer Meeting to be held in the Rockford, Illinois, area. She reminded everyone that Carole Hunter is hosting the Englerth Bed at her garden and is accepting plants at this time.

Jennifer Reed of the Tidewater Daylily Society in Virginia (Region 3) invited everyone to attend the 2027 ADS National Convention to be held the weekend of June 12. She also invited hybridizers to send host plants to the gardens.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting concluded and was turned over to Mike Anders and Greg Beavers to finish the live auction.



Daylilies In Dairyland

2026 Region 2 Summer Meeting

At the Holiday Inn and Suites in beautiful Madison Wisconsin

Work in Progress Gardens

Francis and Genni Kleckner, Muscoda WI

Located in the Driftless Region of Southwest Wisconsin, this AHS display garden consists of over 1000 registered daylily cultivars and many companion plants. This is a hybridizers' garden with thousands of seedlings in various stages of growth and evaluation.



West Madison Agricultural Research Station Madison WI

The Wisconsin Daylily Society has just shy of 500 different cultivars in seven colorful beds at this unique location. This facility focuses on plant breeding, student training, and community outreach.

Yendor Ridge Gardens

Rhonda, Tony and Andrew Veroeven, Windsor WI

Don't let the small size of the garden fool you. Over 2,000 named cultivars are grown on this 1/3-acre lot, along with a few seedlings, guest plants, test plants for four different hybridizers, carnivorous bogs, a frog pond and metal art.



Hosta Haven

Char and Randy Hanson, Windsor WI

Hosta Haven has approximately 80 daylilies on a half-acre lot that abuts a peaceful wooded area. This garden also boasts over 775 varieties of hosta, from miniatures to giants.

Gemutlichkeit Garden

Monique Warnke, Windsor WI

This garden features an overflowing display of lilies, daylilies, and companion plants. Follow the limestone steps to the top of the garden for a spectacular view. The Englerth Bed and sculptures by local artist Thomas Skupiewitz are featured.



Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship Awards 2025

by Barb Buikema, Committee Chair

The Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship Award was established in 2021 by Bob's family and Region 2 to honor Bob (right) for the many roles he played—daylily hybridizer, youth mentor, beloved brother, and special friend. At our Region 2 Summer Meeting, I had the pleasure of announcing the recipients of this year's Bob Faulkner Memorial Youth Scholarship Award. We were pleased to have two winners this year- and they will be familiar as these two sisters were the two initial winners of the scholarship! They have continued with their daylily hybridizing journeys.



Ansley and Evelyn receiving their award from committee- and family members: Pat Titus, Sandra Dunn, Barb Buikema, Joe Monnin, Ray Rayburn, Barb Kedler, Nicole Kedler.

Photo by Lori Doolin



Ansley Titus is from Illinois. She is an eighth-grader who is very active in school activities, including Scholastic Bowl and Student Council. She is a three-sport athlete—volleyball, softball, and soccer. In fact, she plays on two soccer teams including being the only girl on the local traveling boys' team.

Ansley is also very active in 4-H, serving as club president this year. She was selected in three categories for the State Fair but picked her floriculture project to take to exhibit.

Evelyn Titus is in seventh grade. Evelyn loves everything about her farm life! She and her younger brother Philip love to go “adventuring” (exploring) around the farm. She is also a basketball player.



Evelyn is the treasurer of her local 4-H club and is also involved with several 4-H projects, but showing pigs is her favorite. She was selected last year at the 4-H exhibits at the Illinois State Fair for the Inspire Award in floriculture.



Both Evelyn and Ansley are members of the American Daylily Society and Central Illinois Daylily Society and help at club and regional meetings when they can attend. Both sisters are active at Summer Regional meetings, participating with other youth in many activities and serving as runners at the auctions. Both like purple and pink daylilies and enjoy daylilies with fun names. Ansley enjoys daylilies with an eye, such as Bob's own 'Vinicius Lobo' (Faulkner, 2020), photo right. Evelyn and Ansley will use these scholarship funds to purchase daylilies to further their hybridizing goals.



Ansley and Evelyn bidding at a CIDS plant auction in 2018

Photos by Pat Titus



Photo by Barb Papenhausen

The Region 2 Englerth Award: An Overview

by Gail Braunstein, Awards and Honors Chair

This article was originally published in Summer/Fall 2022 edition of the *Great Lakes Daylily* and has been only slightly revised here.



So let's talk about the Englerth Award. Since 1987, both amateur and established hybridizers have been contending for the coveted Englerth Award. This engraved bronze medal is in the memory of Lawrence and Winifred Englerth, Michigan hybridizers who together introduced 26 cultivars. All of their introductions were dormant diploids known for their high bud count and catchy alliterative names such as 'Mini Minx,' 'Pinkey Pinkerton,' and 'Skippy Skeezix.' Both of the Englerths were well known for their promoting of daylilies. To honor the Englerths, the award was established by the Southern Michigan Daylily Society in order to encourage Region 2 members into the field of hybridizing.



Every year, with a few exceptions for extenuating circumstances, an Englerth Bed is established at one of the tour gardens at the Region 2 Summer Meeting. Rules are simple for entering the competition. Each entry must be an unregistered seedling created by an ADS Region 2 member. Hybridizers, both novice and pro, may enter

the competition and may enter several cultivars each year. Previous Englerth Award winners are welcome to enter the competition in subsequent years.

All attendees at the Summer Meeting are eligible to vote by using a provided ballot. These ballots are collected as the last bus leaves the host garden, and then are tallied by the Awards and Honors Chair and/or his or her representative. The award is presented during the evening program on the last day of the Summer Meeting. The winning entry must be registered with ADS with in a year.

Only the host gardener and I know who has entered which seedling. Otherwise, they are identified only by their number in the Englerth Bed. One of the questions I am most frequently asked after the competition is who hybridized which plant. On pages 36-39 we are sharing photos of each of the 2025 entries. Because it was rainy on the afternoon of the competition, and because several of the plants weren't open that day, in many cases we have asked hybridizers to send us photos from their own gardens. Enjoy the variety!



Photos by Sandra Dunn, except seedling photos by hybridizers and Englerth Medal by Ginny Pearce (of one of her three medals!)



Ginny Pearce's
2021 Winner
Now 'Quasar Redshift'



Ann Townsend's
2022 Winner
Now 'O Felon Heart'



Ginny Pearce's
2024 Winner
Now 'Timeless Tango'

2025 Englerth Award

by Gail Braunstein, Awards and Honors Chair

Genni Kleckner of Works in Progress Daylilies was the winner of the 2025 Englerth Competition. Her winning seedling number 2023-5 garnered the most votes. Coming in second was seedling #2025-2 and the hybridizer was Doug Veurink. Third place went to Bret Clement with his seedling # 2302.

I asked Genni for a description of 2023-5, for those who were unable to see the bloom in person. She indicated she always finds it difficult to describe her seedlings, however she gave it a go. Seedling #2023-2 is apricot with a boysenberry eyeliner; the eye is magenta fading to pale lavender with a yellow/green throat. Petals are outlined with a fine line of boysenberry.

Competition was tight this year for the Englerth Award. There were 12 hybridizers with a total of 44 entries vying for the award. Lin-

da and Greg Sutter hosted the competition this year; the display gardens were amazing and of the 44 entries only 4 were not in bloom.

Now let's talk about Genni. She is not new to the Englerth Competition, as she won the coveted metal in 2019. The seedling number that year was 1618, which was registered in 2020 as 'Maybe I'm Amazed.' Since winning the award in 2019 her hybridizing focus has changed. She and her husband Francis used to focus on pretty faces, now those pretty faces must meet their branching and bud count criteria.



Genni and Francis purchased their first daylilies in 1997. In 2009 Genni registered her first cultivar 'In Jane's Honor' and now has a total of 112 registered cultivars. In 2019, Genni received a Junior Citation Award for 'Pablo's Pick.'

She has also won two Honorable Mention Awards in 2020 for 'Prickly All Over' and 'Flaming Pumpkins'.

Genni's volunteer work for the Wisconsin Daylily Society is greatly appreciated. She has been the Hospitality



Kleckner Seedling 2023-5, Englerth Entry #2

Photos by Sandra Dunn

Chair, works behind the scenes for the plant sale, and donates plants to the region for the auctions. The Wisconsin Daylily Society hosts a hugely successful daylily sale each year. Genni and Francis have an area that is used for the growing of plants for that sale. One of her favorite things is working with youth, teaching them the basics of daylily hybridizing.

Genni recently retired and now is able to visit her gardens anytime she wants, not just in the early mornings or late afternoon. Hybridizing can be done at her whim and not just on Saturdays.

We should all be grateful to Bill and Linda Lehman (Greystone Daylilies) and John Sheehan for putting Genni on the road to daylily hybridizing.

For those who missed seeing Genni's entries in the Englerth Competition this summer (2025), her garden will be on tour for the 2026 Region 2 Summer Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.



2nd place winner
Seedling 2525-2,
Englerth #17
by Doug Veurink



3rd place winner
Seedling 2302,
Englerth #26
by Bret Clement

Englerth Bed 2025 Seedlings



E#1 David Winter
Seedling 21-18-23*

* = not blooming at tour
Photo by David Winter



E#2 Genni Kleckner
Seedling 2023-5
Photo by Sandra Dunn
Englerth Award Winner



E#3 Theresa Schwandt
Seedling 19-26
Photo by Theresa Schwandt



E#4 Steve Williams
Seedling 16-1091*



E#5 Carole Hunter
Seedling 18T033
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#6 Doug Veurink
Seedling 2025-4
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#7 Nancy & Bob Watson
Seedling BWTM-WW
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#8 Lori Doolin
Seedling 777-6*



E#9 Genni Kleckner
Seedling 1910
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#10 Sandy Veurink
Seedling 2025-5
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#11 James Guzinski
Seedling 4860*
Photo by James Guzinski



E#12 Carole Hunter
Seedling 18T003
Photo by Sandra Dunn

Englerth Bed 2025 Seedlings continued



E#13 Steve Williams
Seedling 13-538-A
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#14 Pete Webb
Seedling 02203
Photo by Pete Webb



E#15 Lori Doolin
Seedling 777-3
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#16 Theresa Schwandt
Seedling 20-15*
Photo by Theresa Schwandt



E#17 Doug Veurink
Seedling 2025-2
Second Place Winner
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#18 Lori Doolin
Seedling 777-5
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#19 Pete Webb
Seedling PK2419*
Photo by Pete Webb



E#20 Nancy & Bob Watson
Seedling 6T-DON#2
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#21 Carole Hunter
Seedling 18T004
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#22 James Guzinski
Seedling 4621
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#23 Genni Kleckner
Seedling 2008
Photo by Sandra Dunn

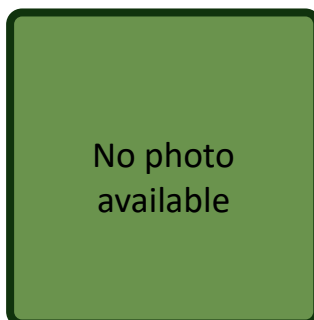


E#24 Carole Hunter
Seedling 18T013
Photo by Sandra Dunn

Englerth Bed 2025 Seedlings continued



E#25 David Winter
Seedling 21-19-10
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#26 Lori Doolin
Seedling 777-8



E#27 Theresa Schwandt
Seedling 19-25
Photo by Theresa Schwandt



E#28 Carole Hunter
Seedling 20T018
Photo by Sandra Dunn



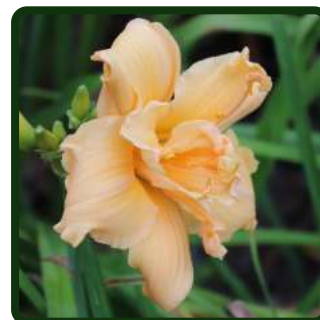
E#29 Steve Williams
Seedling 14-33
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#30 Theresa Schwandt
Seedling 20-05
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#31 David Winter
Seedling 20-18-08
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#32 James Guzinski-
Seedling 6419-A
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#33 Lori Doolin
Seedling LMD-20
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#34 Genni Kleckner
Seedling 2018
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#35 Bret Clement
Seedling 2301



E#36 Bret Clement
Seedling 2302
Third Place Winner
Photo by Sandra Dunn

Englerth Bed 2025 Seedlings *continued*



E#37 Doug Veurink
Seedling 2025-1
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#38 Nancy & Bob Watson
Seedling C-ML\$4
Photo by Nancy Watson



E#39 Pete Webb
Seedling PK3218
Photo by Pete Webb



E#40 Theresa Schwandt
Seedling 19-28
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#41 Doug Veurink
Seedling 2025-3
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#42 Nancy & Bob Watson
Seedling NTT-SOC-1
Photo by Nancy Watson



E#43 David Winter
Seedling 20-17-01
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#44 Sandy Veurink
Seedling 2025-6
Photo by Sandra Dunn



E#45 Bret Clement
Seedling 2303
Photo by Sandra Dunn



A beauty whose Englerth number I somehow missed and no one recognized later

The Englerth Bed for the 2026 Regional is now full. But Carole Hunter is still accepting entries for the 2027 Regional. Her email address is caroleghunter48@gmail.com. We encourage you to enter by sending good-sized divisions as early as possible in the spring of 2026.

Region 2 Recipients 2025 ADS Personal Awards*

Regional Service Award Winners: Patti and Ron Bylerley



Photo by Sandra Dunn

As the name suggests, the Regional Service Award is given for outstanding service to ADS at the Regional level. This is an award meant for the Bylerleys whose motto is “Volunteers are those who give without wanting anything in return.” Ron and Patti have shown ongoing service at the local, regional, and national level for years. Examples of their daylily-related service activities:

- * Patti has been registrar for both Winter and Summer meeting since Summer of 2023, with Ron’s assistance
- * Served on the Regional Planning Committee since 2023
- * Hospitality chairs whose “spread” is still talked about
- * Bus captains for Region 2 Summer Meetings as well as for the National in Louisville and Seattle
- * Donate many items to both the live and silent auctions for Winter and Summer Meetings
- * Each served as President of the Daylily Society of Southern Indiana club until it disbanded
- * Currently active members two clubs in Kentucky (as there are no Region 2 clubs nearby)
- * Ron is a Master Gardener and Patti is a 30 year 4H Volunteer

Mabel Matthews Scholarship

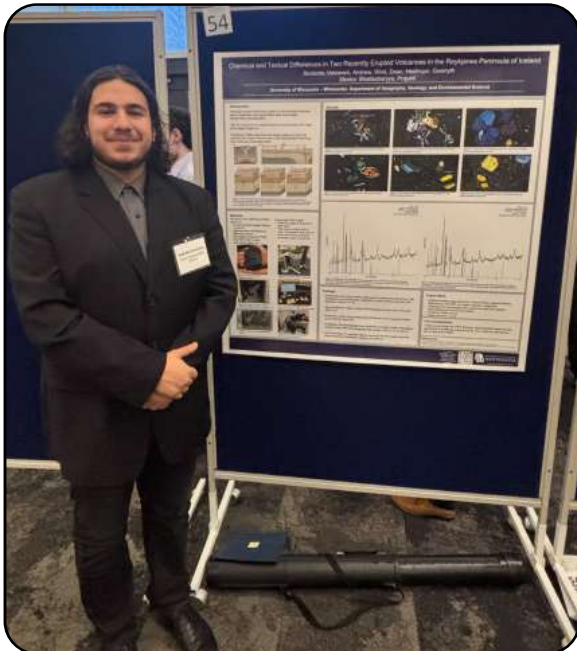


Photo by Rhonda Veroeven

The Mabel Matthews Scholarship is given to up to two eligible ADS members (no age requirement) who are seeking a bachelor degree or graduate degree. While the scholarship is without restriction to a specific field of study, preference is given to horticulture, botany, chemistry, and landscape architecture. Applicants must demonstrate service to an ADS club or at the ADS regional level. Andrew was also a 2024 recipient of this scholarship.

Andrew has literally grown up before our eyes here in Region 2. He has been hybridizing since he was four and now frequently donates his intros to plant auctions. He has attended regional and national events throughout his youth. Andrew has been an active member of the Wisconsin Daylily Society for 15 years, helping at their annual plant sale and working in the gardens maintained by the club. Most recently, Andrew has taken on a new role within the ADS as the Educational Programs Chair.

Andrew is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where he is studying environmental science.

*These awards, and the cultivar awards highlighted on pages 44 - 47, were announced at the National Convention in Washington.

Region 2 Recipients 2025 ADS Newsletter Awards*

Best Article About Youth: Written by Rhonda Veroeven

'Including Youth in Planning and Building a Pollinator Garden in Middle School'

Great Lakes Daylily, Summer/Fall, 2024



Including Youth in Planning and Building a Pollinator Garden in Middle School

Article and photos by Rhonda Veroeven

As the world grapples with environmental challenges, fostering a sense of ecological stewardship in young students is more important than ever. One practical

teachers, and I asked Sue Brumm, a passionate fifth-grade teacher, to join as a co-advisor (photo below). Sue agreed, so the five of us developed a curriculum. The



Best Article About Daylilies in a Non-Daylily Publication: Written by Nikki Schmith

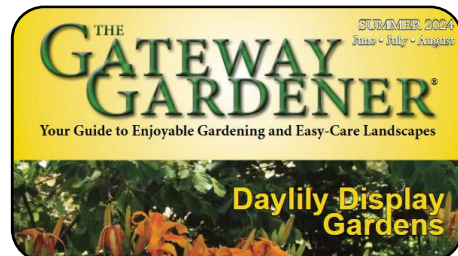
'Blooming Spectacle: The Allure of Daylily Display Gardens'

The Gateway Gardener, Summer, 2024



Blooming Spectacle: The Allure of Daylily Display Gardens

text and photos by Nikki Schmith



Links to these and other previous Great Lakes Daylily articles can be found at <https://adsregion2.org/newsletter/>

Best Article About Outreach: Written by Nikki Schmith

'Engage, Empower, Excel: Cultivating Involvement for Success'

Great Lakes Daylily, Spring, 2024



Engage, Empower, Excel: Cultivating Involvement for Success

By Nikki Schmith, Past AHS President/Past Region 2 President

Gardening isn't just a hobby; it's a passion that brings people together. Garden clubs – and daylily clubs specifically – serve as hubs for enthusiasts to share a big incentive prize for participating in it. Give that incentive (and a summary of the survey) at the next in-person meeting and watch the attendance soar.

75 Ideas For Growth

1. Daylily Bingo
2. Daylily trivia
3. Tool swap
4. Perennial plant swap
5. Theme slide shows from members photos
6. More club visits to local gardens
7. Field trips to other garden club meetings in your area
8. Host a tea

Best Regional Newsletter Award: *Great Lakes Daylily*

Sandra Dunn, Editor

A plaque is given annually to the editor of the best regional newsletter and I am truly appreciative. But I am fully aware that it is great content and a skilled team of proofreaders and other volunteers who earned us this award! And it is the auction donors and those who buy their plants who pay for its printing. Thank you, everyone!



Left to right, top row: Charlie Harper, Nancy Cooper, Lezlie Myers, Mary Kwas, Bob Mainfort, Monique Warnke, Rich Rabeler, Ginny Pearce, Barb Brevick. Bottom row: Nancy Secrist, Barb Bischoff, Marietta Crabtree, Sharon VanderWilp, Trinity Love, Sandra Dunn, Mary Ann Cleary, Regina Stout, Sarah Newell. Not pictured: JoAnne Frederick

Region 2 Recipients 2025 ADS Photography Awards

ADS Youth Photography Award Winner (Beginner Division)



Owen Heffernan



'Desert Shore' (Hanson-C., 2010)

ADS Youth Photography Award Winner (Intermediate Division)



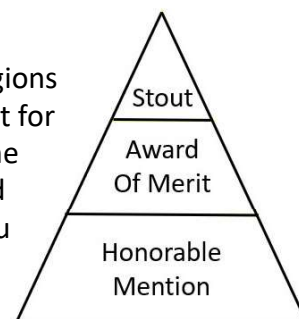
'Iona Pink Promise' (Apscher-V., 1992)



Xavier Heffernan

Region 2 Hybridizers 2025 ADS Cultivar Awards

The majority of daylily cultivar awards are decided by garden judges across the 15 Regions of the American Daylily Society. These appear on the annual Awards and Honors ballot for judges to review and vote on. Besides the Pyramid of Awards (right) culminating in the Stout Silver Medal, there are ten specialty awards (e.g., the Harris Olson Spider Award and the Eugene S. Foster Award for late-blooming or very late-blooming cultivars). You can learn more about each of these awards on the ADS website (daylilies.org). Four of these awards were given to Region 2 members this year.



Award of Merit 2025



**Jamie Gossard for
'Heavenly New Frontiers'**
(Gossard, 2016)
Photo by Cecilia Warsack



**Jamie Gossard for
'Cliffjumper'**
(Gossard, 2017)
Photo by Claude Carpenter

Even though Jamie Gossard has recently moved to Region 12/Florida, we still celebrate with him, especially since these cultivars were created while he was a Region 2 hybridizer.

Region 2 Hybridizers 2025 ADS Cultivar Awards continued

Award of Merit 2025

**Jamie Gossard for
'Spacecoast Scarlet Desire'**
(Kinnebrew-Gossard, 2018)
Photo by Leslie Platt



Donn Fischer Memorial Cup 2025



**Steve Williams for
'Bedbug'**
(Williams-S., 2019)
*Photo by Leslie Platt
Inset by Sandi Rockwell*

This award is given annually to the most outstanding miniature daylily (registered under 3").

Region 2 Hybridizers 2025 National Convention Awards

There are five cultivar awards that are not decided by garden judges. Four of these awards are voted on by attendees of the National Convention tour gardens each year.¹ The President's Cup is awarded to the hybridizer of the cultivar considered to be the most outstanding of all clumps observed by attendees of the National Convention tour gardens. The Florida Sunshine Cup is awarded to the hybridizer of the cultivar considered to be the best small or miniature flowered clump observed at the National Convention tour gardens. The Georgia Double Appreciation Award and the Ned Roberts Spider/Unusual Form Award are also voted on by attendees at the National for the best clumps representing each category.

¹ The other is the Lenington All-American Award, which is decided on by the ADS Board of Directors for the daylily believed to be the best performer over a wide geographic area.

2025 President's Cup

Sandy Holmes and Paul Owen for

'Pony Up'

(Holmes-Owen, 2014)

Photo by Barb Buikema

at the 2025 National Convention

From Sandy:

Pony Up: A Daylily's Journey

Almost twenty years ago, my buddy Paul Owen regularly visited the Dayton area hybridizers' gardens. I always looked forward to walking the seedling fields and getting input from Paul. On one of those visits, he spotted a seedling he liked that was scheduled to be tilled under in the fall. Paul insisted that I should consider it for introduction. Unfortunately, I felt that it would need one more branch for me to keep it. Because Paul liked the daylily so much, it headed south and was added to his hybridizing stock at Slightly Different Nursey.

A year or so later, Paul called to ask me to introduce the daylily because many of his visitors wanted to buy it. I told him that he was the owner and had every right to introduce the daylily. The seedling became a Holmes-Owen intro—'Pony Up.' Later when I saw 'Pony Up' growing in Paul's garden, all the branches and buds that were missing in my garden were very much present. Paul was right. Pony Up was a keeper.

This summer Pony Up won the Presidents Cup at the National Convention in Seattle. I wonder if it might be the only President's Cup winner to be saved from the compost pile by another hybridizer. Paul and I have had a good laugh over this one.



2025 Georgia Doubles Appreciation Award

The winning cultivar in this category was David Kirchhoff's lovely 'Pursuit of Pleasure.' But Region 2 was well-represented with two of Dianna Gossard's cultivars placing second and third.



**Diana Gossard for
'Double Yellow Cream Puff'**

(Gossard-D., 2016)

Runner-up (tie)

Photo by Sandy Huhmann



**Diana Gossard for
'Double My Sunshine'**

(Gossard-D., 2012)

Third place

Photo by Debbie Monbeck

2025 Ned Roberts Spider/UF Award

The winning cultivar in this category was J. P. Murphy's stunning 'Ocean Spirit.' But again Region 2 cultivars placing second and third.



**Sandy Holmes and Paul Owen for
'Pony Up'**

(Holmes-Owen, 2014)

Runner-up

Photo by Barb Buikema



**Jamie Gossard for
'Humungousaur'**

(Gossard, 2013)

Third place

Photo by Bonnie Nichols

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE 2025 REGION 2 PHOTO CONTEST

By Sandra Dunn



Long before I became the editor of Great Lakes Daylily, the Region 2 Photo Contest was something I looked forward to every year—not just entering, but waiting with anticipation to see the beautiful winning images in the newsletter. I inherited the Photo Contest when I became the editor. I don't get to enter anymore, but I now get the first look at every image that is entered. And then I get the pleasure of arranging them in a layout for your enjoyment.

When I did enter the contest in the past, it was always exciting to get to see one of my entries in print. One year, I won in the Multibloom Bloom category. Another year I didn't have a single photo represented. Most years were somewhere in between. It often left me wondering what made the difference.

Now that I am on the other side of the contest, I understand it differently and I want to share a bit of the behind the scenes part with you. There are so many amazing images that choosing a "winning" photo is a daunting task. Our four judges experience that as well. When so many images in each category are comparable in terms of excellent composition, lighting, perspective, focus, and subject matter, sometimes they just have to go with the photo that calls to them. And that is often different for each judge.

Currently, photographers email their images to me and I upload them to a Google drive by category. It remains on my "to do" list to find a photo contest program to simplify that part, but I haven't done that yet. The judges do not know who took which photo when they are looking through them and making their decisions.

Each judge sends me their top three choices in each category, as well as up to five images that they feel deserve an honorable mention. Those are assigned a point value, with a first place vote receiving the most points. With so many great photo choices, it is not very common for the judges to agree. Images that are chosen by two judges (for anything from first through

honorable mention) receive an extra point and those chosen by three judges receive two extra points. The images you see on the following pages are the culmination of those calculations.

That may seem a sterile way to decide among such engaging images—like the judges who assign points to a dynamic figure skating routine in the Olympics. And I would love to have a conversation about that. Each of our judges applies their expertise to analyze each photo and it may land them in different places. But there has to be some way to coordinate the responses.

We run a photo contest at our daylily farm and the winner is chosen not by me or by judges, but by the number of "likes" on Facebook. It broadens the pool of voters and hopefully increases engagement. But it also broadens (for better or worse) the range of photographic expertise in analyzing the images. That is something we could consider for this contest.

I am inviting anyone interested in talking more about the Photo Contest to join me for a Zoom conversation. Email me at greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com for the date and Zoom link. Please join me!

Our sincere thanks to the Prochaska Family of Fox Woods Garden for donating this year's prize plants.



'Frankenstein's Bride'
(Sharon Prochaska, 2022)



'Scarlet Slow Cooker'
(Jim Prochaska, 2024)



'That's the Way the Pickle Squirts'
(Doug Prochaska, 2024)

2025 REGION 2 PHOTO CONTEST

BEST SINGLE BLOOM PHOTO

Winner:
Bobbie Craig
Osgood, IN

'Spacecoast Red Dragon'
(Kinnebrew-Gossard, 2016)

Prize: 'Frankenstein's Bride'
(Prochaska-S., 2022)

All four judges ranked this photo in some way, noting the pleasing contrast of the focused, vivid bloom to the blurred, lighter background.



Runner-up:
Bobbie Craig
Osgood, IN

'Princess Madison Ann'
(Franklin-S.A., 2022)

Prize: Along The Fence
Gift Certificate

Judges appreciated the harmony of the subtle colors in this photo and that the composition included part of the scape for perspective.



Thank you Jim, Sharon, and Doug Prochaska of Fox Woods Garden for donating our first place prize plants.
And thank you Along The Fence Daylilies for our second place prizes!

BEST MULIT-BLOOM PHOTO

Winner:
Kelly Williams
Lucas, OH

'Crintonic Mind Meld'
(Hanson-C., 2016)

Prize: 'Scarlet Slow Cooker'
(Prochaska-J., 2024)

Judges noted that the trio of blooms draws one's eye through the photo in which every bloom is free from any blemish.



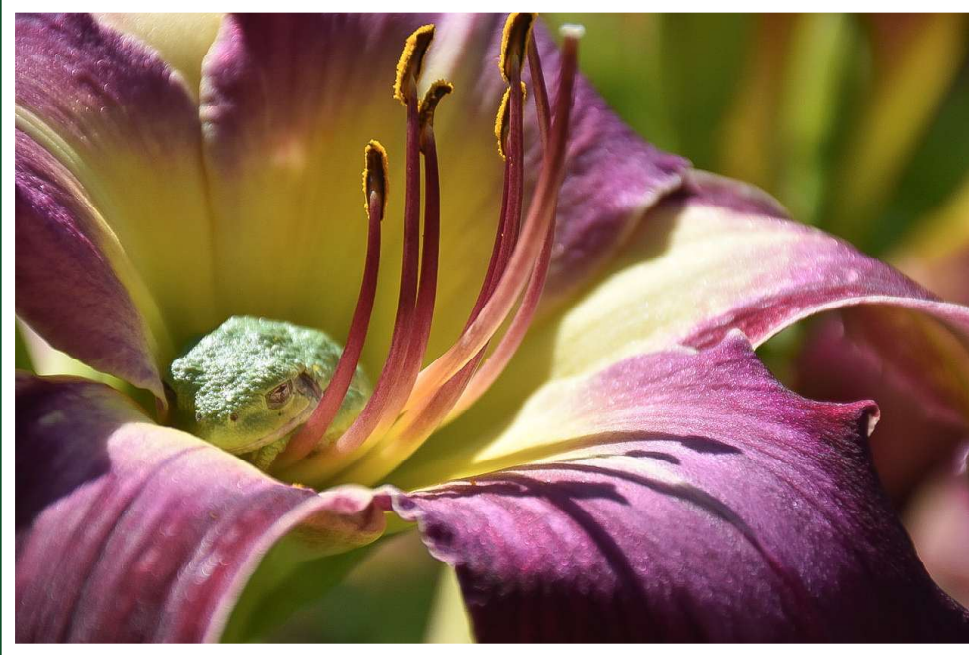
Runner-up:
Debby Colvin
Columbus, OH

'Lady Fingers'
(Peck, 1967)

Prize: Along The Fence
Gift Certificate

Judges felt this image captured the delicate flowing movement of the long spidery petals of this classic cultivar, especially against the dark background.

BEST ARTIST'S CHOICE PHOTO



Winner:
Mary Ann Cleary,
Dansville, MI

'Fear the Purple'
(Kraus-Ed., 2013)

Prize: 'That's the Way the Pickle
Squirts' (Prochaska-D., 2024)

The judges commented that the sun-
light and the flower throat color were
like a spotlight on this frog nestled in
the rich dark purple bloom.

Runner-up:
Debbie Scheckel
New Lenox, IL

'Rose F. Kennedy'
(Doorakian, 2007)

Prize: Along the Fence Gift Certificate

As one judge described, this image
"showcases a side to this popular
plant we rarely observe—with visual
balance, focus, and muted beauty."



ABOUT OUR JUDGES: Many thanks to this thoughtful team!

Returning judge Elaine Yanz is a life-long gardener and in her retirement from music teaching has begun floral and landscape painting again. She enjoys studying and analyzing each of the photo contest entries.

Jason Coleman, a previous contest participant, is one of our three new judges. He has increased his observation skills by completing both garden and exhibition judging classes this year.

Sarah Newell has a BFA in photography and design and spent many years taking travel photos throughout Europe. She is an avid gardener who recently discovered her love of daylilies.

Trinity Love is a keen observer of daylily nuances. He utilized his gardening, observation, and photography skills to develop a social media presence focused on plant imagery, particularly daylilies.

HONORABLE MENTION: SINGLE BLOOM

Many thanks to each of these photographers for sharing their beautiful images with us. Seven people participated who did not enter a photo last year! More honorable mention photos will be published in future issues of *Great Lakes Daylily*.

Amy McConnell, OH
Angie Maly, OH
Barb Brevick, MI
Barb Buikema, MI
Barry Rowe, WI
Bob Buikema, MI
Bobbie Craig, IN
Charlie Harper, OH
Cheryl Jenkins, IN
Christine Haynam, OH
Cynthia Wadsworth, OH
David Winter, OH
Debbie Scheckel, IL
Debby Colvin, OH
Frank Kleckner, WI
Genni Kleckner, WI
Ginny Pearce, MI
Greg Beavers, IN
Jim Brewer, OH
Kelly Williams, OH
Laurie Jacques, OH
Mary Kwas, MI
Mary Ann Cleary, MI
Nevaeh Bieri, MI
Paula Currie, MI
Richard Stevens, OH
Rhonda Veroeven, WI
Sandi Rockwell, OH
Sandra Shull, IL
Sandy Huhmann, WI
Sharon Brewer, OH
Tim Greiter, IL
Vickie Goedde, IN



Mary Ann Cleary
Dansville, MI
'Green Icon'
(Doorakian, 2012)



Charlie Harper
Bowling Green, OH
'Dear Delinquent'

HONORABLE MENTION: SINGLE BLOOM



Amy McConnell
Sherrodsville, OH
'Spacecoast Seize the Day'
(Kinnebrew-Gossard, 2019)



Debbie Scheckel
New Lenox, IL
'Banner Man'
(Korth-P.-Korth-L., 2013)



David Winter
Olmstead Township, OH
'Clark Gable'
(Kirchhoff-D., 2004)



Ginny Pearce
Grand Rapids, MI
Seedling #22-63-01

HONORABLE MENTION: MULTI-BLOOM



Bobbie Craig
Osgood, IN
'Raspberry Swirl' (Klehm, 1993)



Bobbie Craig
Osgood, IN
'From Darkness Comes Light'
(Huben, 2009)



Mary Ann Cleary
Dansville, MI
'Party Pants' (Davisson-J., 2013)

HONORABLE MENTION: MULTI-BLOOM



Angie Maly
West Chester, OH
'Redneck Princess'
(Douglas-H., 2021)



Debbie Scheckel
New Lenox, IL
'Minnesota Nice'
(Emmerich, 2013)



David Winter
Olmstead Township, OH
'Daniel Howard Norris'
(Norris-R., 2013)



Tim Greiter
West Chicago, IL
'Kathy Perkins'
(Pearce-G., 2011)

HONORABLE MENTION: ARTIST'S CHOICE



Kelly Williams
Lucas, OH
'Aunt Leona' (Smith-FR, 2006)



Debby Colvin
Columbus, OH
'Wild One' (Wild, 1978)



Vickie Goedde
Elberfeld, IN
'Dances with Giraffes'
(Reed, 2005)



Cheryl Jenkins
Bloomington, IN
'Omega Red' (Gossard, 2011)

HONORABLE MENTION: ARTIST'S CHOICE



Bobbi Craig
Osgood, IN
'Second Fiddle'
(Hensley-D., 2010)



Ginny Pearce
Grand Rapids, MI
Sutter Farm, Clarks Hill,
IN



Debbie Schneckel
New Lenox, IL
'Snowboarding'
(Reed, 2005)



Charlie Harper
Bowling Green, OH
'Identity Complex'
(Hanson, C., 2014)

Help Preserve Your Regional History

The American Daylily Society Archives Needs You!

by Melodye Campbell, ADS Archives and History Chair

The ADS Archives is actively seeking older Regional newsletters to complete our historical collection. Many regions are missing issues from the 1960s through the 1990s, and your materials could help preserve a more complete record of our shared legacy.

If you're ready to part with your Region 2 newsletters, we would be sincerely grateful for your donation. Shipping costs will be reimbursed. Prefer to keep them? We'd be happy to borrow and scan your copies, then promptly return them—again, with postage covered.

Whether through donation or temporary loan, your generosity ensures that the voices, gardens, and mile-stones of our community are never lost to time. Together, we can build a richer, more complete archive for future generations of daylily enthusiasts. Explore the digital collection already available through the Membership Portal on the ADS website. Just log into the Portal with your username and password. You'll find collections from all 15 Regions.

In the Region 2 collection, read about local giants like Steve Moldovan, Brother Charles Reckamp, Hubert Fischer, Walter Jablonski and so many more. As the ADS Archives continues to digitize historic material, more will be added to the Members Portal. We are in the process of scanning historic Judges Handbooks, National Convention guidebooks and much more. Just imagine the stories still waiting to be told.

Here are the Region 2 issues we are missing:

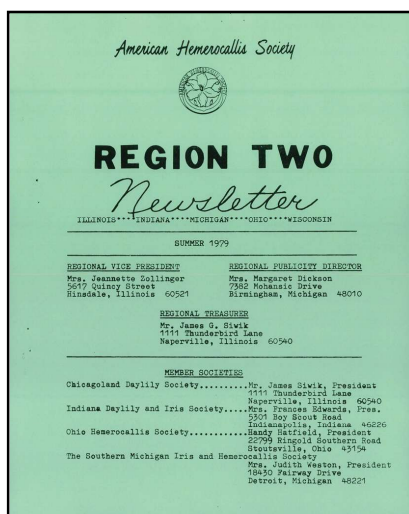
- * All issues from 1950-1952, 1954-1959
- * All issues from 1960, 1961, 1965, 1967-1977
- * Spring 1964 and 1978
- * Winter 1979, 1980, 1981
- * Fall-Winter 1988
- * Fall-Winter 2002
- * Summer 2011, 2012, 2013
- * Winter 2019

You can contact me at melodyec@gmail.com.



A NATIONAL TREASURE GROUP: imagine the world without the beautiful daylily introductions of . . . Mavis Smith, Walter Jablonski, Pauline Henry and Van Sellers

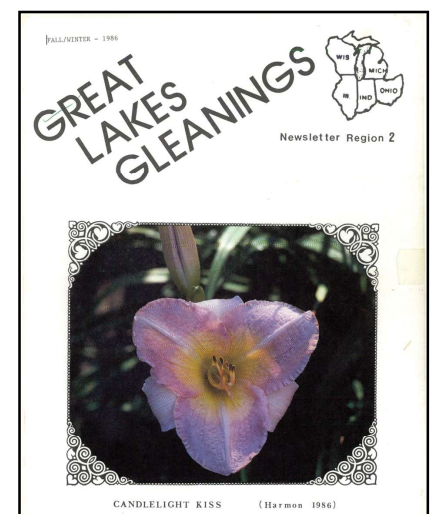
Above: Archive example from the spring 1985 issue of the Region 2 newsletter. The caption reads: "A NATIONAL TREASURE GROUP: imagine the world without the beautiful daylily introductions of... Mavis Smith, Walter Jablonski, Pauline Henry, and Van Sellers."



Region 2 Newsletter,
Summer, 1979



Region 2 Newsletter,
Spring, 1985
Brother Charles Reckamp



Region 2 Newsletter,
Fall/Winter, 1986

Region 2 Club Reports

Indiana Daylily-Iris Society

by Greg Beavers

WOW, a busy summer season for the Indiana Daylily-Iris Society! We enjoyed two hybridizer presentations this summer. The first was in June from Bob and Nancy Watson of Cherry Hill Gardens in Terre Haute, Indiana. Then in August, John Kinnebrew of Spacecoast Daylilies in Scottsmeer, Florida, spoke to our club. The rest of you will have the chance to hear John speak if you come to the Winter Meeting in Indianapolis February 27-March 1, 2026.



Late-blooming
'Last Chance for Love'
(Watson-N.R., 2025)
Photos by Nancy Watson



Seedling
'Pineapple Bites x
Extreme Tangerine'
(Watson, unregistered)

IDIS hosted a Daylily Show at Avon Gardens in Avon, Indiana, on June 28, 2025. One hundred twenty-six entries from eleven exhibitors representing two states were displayed. Best of Show was exhibited by Greg Beavers with 'Mean Green,' Judy Davisson's 2024 Lenington Award winner. In the Design Category, the winner was Dan Howell.

IDIS participated in two plant sales this summer with the first being held during the Region 2 Summer Regional, "Back Home in Indiana." The second club sale was held in August at Avon Gardens (photo, right). Left over plants were donated to Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, Bloomington, Indiana, for all to enjoy in future years.



Photo by Rod Maust

Our club welcomes new members in central Indiana interested in daylilies and iris. We will see you again at our first meeting in March, 2026. For more information, contact Greg Beavers, IDIS Corresponding Secretary at bluebirdbox@gmail.com or 812-345-2299.



'Mean Green'
(Davisson-J., 2008)
*Photo by Greg Beavers
unless noted*



Dan Howell's
winning design



Show preparation



Processing for 2025
plant sale

Northeast Ohio Daylily Society

by Julie Gridley

Amazing! If you had to describe this year's bloom season in Northeast Ohio with a single word, that could be it. We were blessed with the perfect combination of summery days, warm nights, and plentiful rain – all the elements that make daylilies happy. In return, they burst into bloom about a week earlier than usual and put on a fantastic show. As usual, there was more to see and do than we could possibly squeeze into the time of peak bloom. But it was certainly great while it lasted. Here are some highlights of our summer club activities.

May 31: Our annual plant sale was held at a local garden center that generously allows us to set up in their parking lot during the busiest plant-buying time of the year. We did well, almost matching the sales we made last year, which doesn't sound surprising until you hear that temperatures were in the 40s and 50s, the sky was overcast, and there were blustery winds the entire time. Volunteers were bundled in coats, hats, and gloves. If only we had a photo as proof! But none of us thought to capture one; I think we knew that shivering would make for blurry pictures. In the end, it was the kind of memorable experience we can now laugh about, and we made some new connections with other daylily lovers and shared some beautiful plants.

July 11: Although many of us were unable to travel to Indiana for the regional meeting, we did make a day trip to tour Neverending Gardens, the display garden of Dave and Cecilia Warsack near Wadsworth, Ohio.

To say it was worth the trip is an understatement. They have created a paradise of over 1,000 daylilies plus other perennials in just a

few short years, and they are still forming new beds. This photo gives just a taste of what their place has to offer, and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit with this hard-working, hospitable couple. Cecilia hosts a Facebook group called "Daylilies and Friends." Check it out! And also check out the Spring 2025 *Great Lakes Daylily* for a feature article about Neverending Gardens.

July 16: We had the opportunity to tour a local historical site called Mooreland Mansion, which includes not only a beautifully restored home, now a conference and party center, but also its extensive grounds. Our club is working with the gardening staff to provide plants for a new daylily bed there. It will be fun to visit next year to see how they're doing!

Aug. 2: To round out the season, we held our annual picnic at Crintonic Gardens. We always look forward to the chance to break bread together, catch up with each others' lives, and wander around Curt Hanson's daylily field, marveling at all the late bloomers that are still doing amazing things, even in August. After that, it's time to catch a breath and start dreaming about next summer!



Club picnic at Crintonic Gardens. Photo by Colleen Kochever.

Daylily Society of SouthEast Wisconsin

by Patricia Adrian

DSSEW members are looking forward to a revival of an annual picnic event in September! It's been a few years since we gathered to celebrate the close of our daylily season and look forward to planning gardens for the next growing season. As we enjoy good food and good company, we will be looking back on a busy year.

Our 2025 speakers shared their expertise on a variety of topics. In February, DSSEW member and Master Gardener volunteer Dan Cummings (right) filled us in on hostas, daylilies, and true lilies. Dan has planted and cares for hundreds of hosta varieties and his gardens are a delight. Dan also brought hosta seedlings for everyone to take home!



Michelle Rogers of Ellison Daylilies continues to build on Bob Ellison's genetics program and established the Bob Ellison Memorial Garden at her home. She breeds for northern hardiness, ruffles, and unique color combinations. Michelle welcomes visitors during her July Bloomfest celebration. Wisconsin hybridizers Phil and Luel Korth of Pinewood Gardens discussed their current 'downsized' program—yet they still plant 1,000 to 2,000 seedlings per year! Glenn Herold talked about 'Unusual and Underutilized Perennials and Grasses' and opened our eyes to many new varieties to consider for our gardens. Glenn blogs at 'thecottagegardener53012.wordpress.com.' Check out over 200 articles that he shares.



DSSEW member Christy Sterling made our April meeting sign-in area festive and fun.



DSSEW President Mark Pawlak and Wilma Brouwer-Herwig bagging and tagging daylilies for our Annual Daylily Sale.

Our club conducted our annual Daylily Sale on the first Saturday in June, offering over 200 varieties. We rent a space at a local Farmers Market. The weather was pretty great this year for not only the sale, but also for the prep work and replanting. Yes, it's a LOT of work in a short timeframe. But we do manage to do a LOT of socializing while we dig, clean, bag, label and sell our plants. Even before the sale, the volunteer turnout was a tremendous success! We've been able to acquire new varieties for our sale thanks to generous donations and special sales by members and hybridizers. Last year we purchased plants from the Green Bay Daylily Society (BAD Buds) and will do that again this year at their September Sale. We'd like to thank everyone who has helped our club grow and thrive!



DSSEW Board Members Jill and Jim Recely hold their door prize from our March meeting. We have many door prizes at each meeting. The club buys some, and members contribute others.

Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society

by Laurie Jacques

Metropolitan Columbus Daylily Society had an action-packed and flower-filled summer! A rainy spring after last year's drought meant most gardens were bursting with blooms.

We participated in an outreach event with Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society on Saturday, May 10, at Franklin County Fairgrounds to promote membership in MCDS and offer a selection of daylilies for sale. Visitors to our booth were intrigued by the fun daylily cultivar names such as 'Forensic Evidence' as well as the pretty flower faces. We built relationships with other plant lovers and generated membership leads.



President Fred Blyth and Treasurer Patty Spahr Hitt at the Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society event
Photo by Laurie Jacques

Our May meeting was on Saturday, May 17, at Franklin Park Conservatory. The meeting featured an auction of returned guest plants from Sandy and Mike Holmes and a distribution of new guest plants from Jamie Gossard and Tim Bell. We also held a spring cleanup of the daylily beds at Franklin Park Conservatory in May.



Auction of returned guest plants at May meeting
Photo by Laurie Jacques

Our accredited, judged daylily show, chaired by Arielle Lucius and co-chaired by Charles Lucius, was on Saturday, June 28. This event was once again held at the Upper Arlington Public Library, which provides the opportunity to showcase our daylilies to the public with natural lighting coming from floor to ceiling windows.

We had over 175 on-scape entries, which were judged by two AHS Exhibition Judge teams. In addition to the on-scape judging, visitors were able to vote on their favorites in on-scape, off-scape, and design categories.

On-scape entries at MCDS Daylily Show
Show photos by Bob Johnson



Exhibition judges considering the on-scape entries



Head table at the accredited MCDS show

Youth winner Sophia Fauth
Photo by Bob Johnson





Club members at the ice cream social celebrating MCDS's 40th anniversary.

Photo by Kimberly Farrell

We held an ice cream social on Tuesday, July 1, in the daylily gardens at Franklin Park Conservatory to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary. Members enjoyed peak bloom in the gardens and delicious ice cream sundaes with all the toppings. Garden highlights included 'End of the Tunnel' hybridized by member Steve Williams and 'Walt Lowry' hybridized by member Sandy Holmes.

In late July, a team of members dug selected plants from the daylily beds at Franklin Park Conservatory for our planned public and member sales. Other members picked up the clumps to divide and clean for the sales. Our public plant sale was on Saturday, July 26, at Clintonville Woman's Club. Shoppers chose from a bounty of bargain-priced plants. Those who bought five or more plants had the opportunity to choose a painting donated by member Gail Johannes. The 2025 sale resulted in six new members.



Above: Shoppers at MCDS public daylily sale
Sale photos by Laurie Jacques

Our August meeting was on Saturday, August 2, at Franklin Park Conservatory. We began with a members-only daylily sale and a pizza lunch provided by the club. An auction of returned guest plants from Heidi and Charles Douglas, Gene Tanner, and Karol Emmerich followed. The meeting concluded with a distribution of new guest plants from Spacecoast Daylilies, Brown's Ferry Gardens, and Webb Daylily Gardens (mostly Judy Davisson and Curt Hanson hybrids).

We have several activities planned for the remainder of the year. We will hold a fall cleanup of the daylily beds at Franklin Park Conservatory in early September. Our last business meeting of the year will be on Saturday, September 20, at Franklin Park Conservatory. Member Mike Anders will speak on the Moldovan legacy in modern daylilies. Our holiday luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, at Der Dutchman in Plain City.



Member plant sale at August MCDS meeting
Photo by Debby Colvin

Southern Michigan Daylily Society

by Marietta Crabtree

In addition to our daylily presentations and auctions, the Southern Michigan Daylily Society has expanded programming to include general gardening programs that promote good earth stewardship. As part of this emphasis, the May program was “Integrated Pest Management and Invasive Species.” Gardeners had an opportunity to learn safer methods to control garden pests than pesticides and to learn several methods to deal with invasive species in the home garden.

The program was presented by Amanda Ruffini, director of the Lake St. Clair Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Ruffini’s goal as director is to prevent the spread of and provide methods to manage invasive species.

Ruffini said that integrated pest management is a science-based approach to pest control that relies on a combination of management methods, including biological control, habitat manipulation and chemical control. Integrated pest management is important because it is necessary for environmentally responsible pest control, as it helps to prevent initial pest problems, minimizes need for pesticides, and promotes a balanced ecosystem. It is essential for pollinator gardens and organic gardening.

In terms of Invasive species plants, these are non-native plants not historically found in Michigan that cause harm to health, the economy, and the environment. One example is Phragmites, which are invasive large reed grasses that are replacing wetland native plants and destroying the wetland for wildlife.



Phragmites

Methods used to eliminate and manage invasive species plants were presented.

Local invasive species insects were also discussed, including the Spotted Lanternfly. Native to Asia, the Spotted Lanternfly feeds on 70 different plants including grapes, apples and hardwood trees. The

Michigan Invasive Species program recommends taking a picture if you see a Spotted Lanternfly before squishing it, and then reporting it.



Spotted Lanternfly

The June program featured “WOW Daylilies for the Garden” presented by Sandra Dunn, co-owner of Along the Fence Daylilies in Dansville, Michigan. Sandra grows 2,800 different varieties of daylilies from which she carefully selected approximately 65 outstanding daylily varieties for her presentation.

The selected WOW daylilies included examples of the different daylily forms such as miniatures, doubles, spiders, and unusual forms. She also introduced us to the vocabulary of colors and patterns in daylilies. For Sandra, “a WOW daylily is one that makes me want to take its photo every time I pass it.” Other traits that make a daylily exemplary include the unique-



A few examples of outstanding performers highlighted in Sandra’s presentation, clockwise from top right: ‘Mermaid’s Spell’ (Davisson-J., 2013), ‘Cobbs Hill Sherbet’ (Zettek, 2016), ‘Flying Fortress’ (Rinke-K., 2015), and ‘Brandy Renee’ (Dillon, 2014).

ness of the bloom, great overall garden performance, bloom duration, and whether it extends the season by blooming very early or very late. An auction of twenty daylilies mentioned by Sandra followed the presentation. It was a great opportunity to learn about a select, outstanding group of Michigan-hardy daylilies.

The SMDS Daylily Show and Plant sale was held at Telly's Greenhouse in Shelby Township on July 12th. Hundreds of beautiful daylily blooms were entered for the off-scape show. Visitors voted for their favorite blooms. Blooms with the most votes earned their owners daylily prizes. A great big "Thank You" to show co-chairpersons, Sheila and Doug Green and Sandi Combs, and to Linda Ann and Dennis Kollin for storing and transporting the show equipment. July and August were filled with garden visits. John



The "Unregistered Seedling" display at the SMDS Daylily Show and Plant Sale

Blair's restored five-acre prairie and pollinator gardens in Brooklyn, Michigan were visited on July 26th. John had presented a program about the prairie restoration in May, so it was exciting to see the living prairie after seeing photos and learning about the prairie previously. The prairie was in a blue phase in July with mainly *Monarda* and Joe Pye Weed dominating. The prairie changes as different blooming plants dominate



different seasons.¹

The world-famous Piet Oudolf Garden Detroit, located on a three-acre Detroit River view site on Belle Isle State Park, was visited on August 9th. The designer, Piet Oudolf, is considered to be the best public garden designer in the world today. Richard Thomas, the garden's head horticulturist,



had presented a program in April about the Oudolf Garden to SMDS so it was amazing to see the garden designs come to life. It was also very special to have Richard Thomas give SMDS the garden tour and answer the many questions our club members had.

The Oudolf Garden is a naturalistic public garden designed to be both artistic and ecological. The plants artistically provide ever-changing textures and colors for all four seasons. The garden is also a habitat for helping with the survival of butterflies, native bees, birds and other wildlife. The Meadow area is mainly Michigan native plants that provide habitat for pollinators. Visit: www.oudolfgardendetroit.org.

SMDS members visited Jim Slezinski's amazing three-acre tropical garden in Lake Orion during the open garden dates on August 23 & 24. In addition to the tropical plants that highlight the gardens, there are thousands of annual and perennial plants and two beautiful ponds connected by six waterfalls. Jim is a landscape designer and his many talents are evident throughout the garden.



¹ See our club report in the spring edition of the *Great Lakes Daylily* for photos of the prairie through the seasons.

Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society

by Lisa Marlatt

Being a dual group for both daylilies and hostas, this was the year to showcase hostas. The 16th biennial “Rivers of Leaves” was held at the Toledo Botanical Garden on Sunday, June 15. Nine members exhibited: Shelly Abramczyk, Charlie Harper, Eileen Hoffman, Harold Hoffman, Linda Hoffman, Phil Parsons, Frank Patz, Kathy Shortidge, and Linda Scheuerman. Thanks go out to other members who assisted with the welcome table, placement, and lunch. The judges were Don Bixler and Charlene Patz.

It’s been a great year for daylilies. Members have been visiting other member gardens to get ideas for more purchases for next year. Daylilies are truly the best perennial and you can’t have too many.

On August 16, we held the annual Daylily Work Day, dividing and replanting daylilies in the American Display Garden. The Toledo Metroparks provided all of the tools, tarps, barrels, and dump truck for our use, with Jonathan Milbrodt, Toledo Botanical Garden Lead Horticulturalist, organizing the event. Following the cleanup, a daylily auction was held and host plants from hybridizers Ginny Pearce and Jerry Marlatt were distributed.

We have two great programs lined up for this fall. On September 20, members will be sharing their garden photos from their volunteer efforts at the 577 Garden in Perrysburg, Simpson Garden in Bowling Green, and the Harley Dunbar Healing Garden at Flower Hospital in Sylvania. On October 11, Laura Deeter will present “The Perfect Plants for the Imperfect Garden.” Laura, who has a PhD and is a Professor of Horticulture and Crop Science, is employed at the Chadwick Arboretum in Columbus.

We will wrap up the year with our year-end potluck on November 8. It’s a great time to sit and visit with each other, reflect on what a great year 2025 was, and plan for an even better 2026.

If you are in our area during any of our events, we would love to have you join us. All of our meetings are held in the Terrace Room of the Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Garden Metropark, 5403 Elmer Street. Be sure to friend us on our Facebook site and visit our website: <https://www.facebook.com/blackswamphostaanddaylilyociety>. Eileen Hoffman does a wonderful job keeping the information updated in Facebook.



Linda Hoffman and Linda Scheuerman preparing for the hosta leaves to arrive



Charlie Harper, a master of both daylilies and hostas



Harold and Eileen Hoffman arranging hosta leaves



Shelly Abramczyk putting finishing touches on her display as Diana Vasquez looks on



Left: It takes the whole BSHDS team to have a spectacular hosta show.

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**Thank you for keeping
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current!**

Please notify
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(bbbuikema@att.net) and
Editor Sandra Dunn
(greatlakesdaylily@gmail.com)
when club information
changes. Our goal is to keep
this information up to date so
information can flow across
the Region.

2026 REGION 2 WINTER MEETING

Where: Indianapolis, Indiana
When: February 27 - March 1, 2026
See pages 14 of this newsletter
or the Region 2 Website for more information.

2026 REGION 2 SUMMER MEETING

Where: Madison, Wisconsin
When: July 17 - 19, 2026
See pages 32 of this newsletter
or the Region 2 Website for more information.

2026 ADS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Where: Valdosta, Georgia
When: May 20 - 23, 2026
<https://ads2026national.org>



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Sutter Farm

Photo by Ginny Pearce at the 2025 Summer Meeting